JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**
**United States Department of Justice**
**Washington, D. C.**

JEL:DF

May 13, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM

Re: Fritz Kuhn

In accordance with your instructions I called Mr. Hottel of the Washington Field Office and related that you desired that he have an Agent obtain from the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, Department of Labor, properly authenticated photostatic copies of the naturalization and denaturalization proceedings of Fritz Kuhn. I told Mr. Hottel that a review of this naturalization file had been made by Agent [redacted] during the Nazi investigation, and at that time he had contacted [redacted] I was subsequently advised that a check of the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, Department of Labor, reflected that the entire naturalization file pertaining to Fritz Kuhn was in their New York Office, and that the original file was located at Detroit, Michigan.

b7C

In accordance with your instructions I telephoned Mr. Bugas at Detroit, requesting that he obtain from the Clerk of the United States District Court a properly authenticated photostatic copy of the record of Fritz Kuhn's naturalization. Mr. Bugas subsequently called back and stated he was unable to obtain a photostatic copy but he was able to obtain a properly authenticated typewritten copy, which he indicated would be forwarded to the Bureau air mail special delivery, arriving some time Sunday morning, May 14, 1939.

Respectfully,

[redacted]

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R 95 MAY 17 1961

RECORDED
&
INDEXED.

6-7594-15
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAY 22 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FILE

# WASHINGTON CITY NEWS SERVICE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

MAY 12 4 26 PM '39
RECEIVED
F B I
COMMUNICATIONS

STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS TODAY INDICATED THEY PROBABLY WOULD GRANT A REQUEST OF MAYOR LAGUARDIA OF NEW YORK TO DELAY ACTION ON PASSPORT APPLICATIONS BY NAZI BUND LEADER FRITZ KUHN AND TWO ASSOCIATES, FRITZ SCHWIERING AND GERHARD WILHELM KUNZ.

LAGUARDIA TELEGRAPHED SECRETARY HULL THAT HE HAD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT KUHN AND HIS ASSOCIATES HAD APPLIED FOR PASSPORTS.

THE NEW YORK MAYOR ASKED THAT ISSUANCE OF PASSPORTS BE HELD UP PENDING AN INVESTIGATION OF THE THREE MEN BY NEW YORK CITY AUTHORITIES. HIS TELEGRAM DID NOT REVEAL THE NATURE OF THE INVESTIGATION.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH USUAL CUSTOM IN PASSPORT MATTERS, STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS MAINTAINED SECRECY AS TO WHETHER APPLICATIONS FOR PASSPORTS HAD ACTUALLY BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE THREE MEN.

5/12--R410P

Tamm: This looks suspicious. Put all speed possible on Kuhn matter. G. - 61-9594-15

[illegible] 10[illegible]15

Photo Property 5/13

1) Naturalization

2) [illegible]

Re

[redacted]

Fritz Kuhn

b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

5/12 1939

____The Director
____Mr. Nathan
____Mr. Tolson
____Mr. Clegg
____Mr. Foxworth
____Mr. Glavin
____Mr. Nichols
____Mr. Crowl

____Files Section
____Personnel Files
____Identification Division
____Technical Laboratory
____Mechanical Section
____Chief Clerk's Office
____Crime Statistics
____Mr. Tracy

16

2

SUPERVISORS

[redacted]

Miss Gandy

[redacted]

____Typists - 5724
____Typists - 52360
✓ See Me

100 pres

____Bring file up to date
____Send File
____Correct
____Call me regarding this
____Note and Return
____Search, serialize and route
____Stenographers 5724
____Stenographers 5730
____Stenographers 5706
____Prepare tickler for_____

[redacted] out of town

My office O.S. D P-84516
Dec 3, 1934
3 8 gave as copies [redacted]

E. A. TAMM - 5734.

b7C

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**
**United States Department of Justice**
**Washington, D. C.**

KRM:AI

May 16, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM

9:15 a.m.

At this time, and in keeping with your instructions, I telephonically advised Special Agent [redacted] of the New York Office that he was instructed by the Bureau to expend a sum of from $100 to $120 in payment of services to [redacted] who, in consideration thereof, is to obtain information from his files which may be of value to the Bureau in a possible deportation case against Fritz Kuhn.

b7C

[redacted] said that some of the data would be in English while some of it would be in the German language. I asked him what he was going to do about the translating of that which is in German. He said he planned to use the services of [redacted] He is reportedly very reliable.

b7D

I told [redacted] to ascertain the amount of data in the German language which would have to be translated and to obtain an estimate from [redacted] as to what he will charge for the translation of this material. When that has been learned, I told [redacted] to communicate with the Bureau and let us know what the price to be charged by [redacted] will be so that the Bureau can pass upon this matter. He said he would do this.

Respectfully,

[redacted]

RECORDED & INDEXED.

61-7594-16
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAY 22 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
TAMM

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R95 MAY 17 19[illegible]

New York, N. Y.

GJS:HB
74-130

May 18, 1939

Special Agent in Charge
Newark, New Jersey

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Re: FRITZ KUHN
PERJURY; IMMIGRATION; NATURALIZATION.

b7C

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above matter, will you kindly have an Agent interview [redacted] to ascertain if either of them have information regarding FRITZ KUHN'S career in Munich, with particular reference to a term which he is reported to have served in the Stadelheim Jail at Munich in 1921 on a charge of larceny, growing out of thefts from the students' lockers at the Munich University.

If it is found that they do have some such information, it should be determined if they can in any way be positive that the FRITZ KUHN whom they know of, is identical with the FRITZ KUHN who is now head of the German-American Bund here.

Very truly yours,

DWIGHT [illegible]
Special Agent in Charge

cc-Bureau

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

61-7594-14

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAY 19 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

New York, N. Y.

GJS:HB
74-130

May 18, 1939

Special Agent in Charge
Boston, Massachusetts

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Re: FRITZ KUHN,
PERJURY; IMMIGRATION; NATURALIZATION.

b7C

Dear SIR:

In connection with the above matter, will you kindly have an Agent interview [redacted] to ascertain if he has information regarding FRITZ KUHN's career in Munich, with particular reference to a term which he is reported to have served in the Stadelheim Jail at Munich, in 1921 on a charge of larceny, growing out of thefts from the students' lockers at the Munich University.

If it is found that [redacted] does have some information, it should be determined if he can in any way be positive that the FRITZ KUHN whom he knows of, is identical with the FRITZ KUHN who is now head of the German-American Bund here.

Yours very truly,

DWIGHT BRADLEY
Special Agent in Charge

cc-Bureau

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7594-17
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAY 19 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Copy -

[redacted]

March 6th 1939

[redacted]

Dear Sir:

b7C

This may be the strangest letter you have received in your life but I can assure you it is the most important. There is an invisible Government supported by German funds and a party by the name of Kuhn is its chief. This organization is going to overthrow our Government and then all jews will be slaughtered. I personally have some facts but not sufficient to put the leaders into the hands of Government authorities. A very good friend of mine [redacted] who has dates pictures names and places is in the hands of this organizations agents and they are waiting to put him on a ship to Germany. Some few faithful Americans have vanished from sight while trying to tell this story to the proper authorities however [redacted] tells me that the Federal Government had an agent at all this organizations meetings but if this is so I don't see why Kuhn has not been picked up. The Fedral people may have him and his gang under watch waiting to get the whole organization I am told that several letters have been sent to the Dies Committee and I personally wrote to [redacted] but received no answer. [redacted] tells me that this organization has quite a few agents in Washington and these letters are not getting into the proper hands. I know I am a marked man but If I can serve my Government I will sacrifice my life to do it. The N.Y. police or any other city cant cope with this situation. The Federal Government is the only authorities big and smart enought, and personally [redacted] and I think the Federal Government is acting in an intelligent and quiet way so they would'nt want any local authorities throwing all their work overboard. Don't call in local police but if you will do as I ask this organization will be exterminated. Two of the guards that are watching over [redacted] have promised to release him for a cash consideration and an add was supposed to be in a local paper. I was delegated to carry through on this if this add did'nt appear I was to act. These two guards will require some $5000.00 and there are other expenses so I will require some $5000.00. It would not be well for you to associate yourslef in any way but if you can get this money so that I can free [redacted] I

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8 MAY 19 1961

am sure you will have served your people and our Democracy. [redacted] tells me that Thursday a.m.is the last hours I will phone you about 4:30 Tuesday and will make an appointment for Tuesday evening I will identify myself and give you more data and proof but don't notify anyone until you see me.

b7C

Yours truly

/s/

[redacted]

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
N ew York, N. Y.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Fenwerth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

GJS:HB
74-130

May 18, 1939

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Re: FRITZ KUHN
PERJURY; IMMIGRATION;
NATURALIZATION.

b7C
b7D

Dear Sir:

In accordance with Bureau instructions, Special Agent [redacted] of this office, accompanied by [redacted] who was to act as interpreter, called on [redacted] at his home in [redacted] on Monday, May 15, 1939, and discussed with him the nature of the information now desired in connection with the investigation of FRITZ KUHN, leader of the German-American Bund. [redacted] stated that he would be able to get together from the material which he has a great quantity of what might be termed evidence of KUHN'S disregard of and disrespect for his citizenship in this country. For this he asked a compensation of $125.00, and stated it would take him about four days to do the job.

After submitting the above information to the Bureau and receiving a reply by telephone from [redacted] of the Bureau, Agent [redacted] talked with [redacted] by telephone on the evening of May 16, and arranged to have him do this work for $100. Thereafter the material will be gone over with [redacted] to arrange for an estimate on the cost of making necessary translations, which figure will then be submitted to the Bureau for approval.

In the course of conversation, the statement appearing on the Bund membership application was discussed, and it was stated by [redacted] that the words appearing therein, which are with reference to following the "Fuehrer prinzip " or

COPIES DESTROYED
R95 MAY 17

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7594-18
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAY 23

b7C

b7D

"leadership principle", are in effect an undertaking to follow the Hitler or Nazi principles, and not the leadership principle as that would be understood in English, or as it would have been understood in Germany prior to the advent of National Socialism and Hitler. [redacted] is quite confident that this point could be proven to the satisfaction of a court by any philologist, familiar with the recent developments in the German language.

With reference to the Bureau suggestion that [redacted] be interviewed, it was found upon his being communicated with by Agent [redacted] who knows him, that the only information he has regarding the subject matter of this investigation was obtained by him from [redacted] He stated he believes that [redacted] really has some good information, having done a great deal of research regarding the Nazi activities as they apply to foreign countries.

Very truly yours,

Dwight Brantley

DWIGHT BRANTLEY
Special Agent in Charge

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**
**United States Department of Justice**

GJS:SKL
61-520

New York, N. Y.
May 16, 1939.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Re: NAZI ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED STATES.
(Bureau file 61-7560)

b7C

Dear Sir:

There are forwarded herewith two letters dated March 6, 1939; and April 12, 1939, which were received by former [redacted] which tell a story of an alleged holding of a man named [redacted] by the German American Bund or some such organization and the writer states that he, for a consideration of $5,000, can arrange to have [redacted] released.

[redacted] called at this office to submit a copy of an affidavit alleged to have been made by REINHOLD SPITZ regarding an alleged criminal record of FRITZ KUHN at Munich, Germany. In the course of the conversation surrounding the matter of the affidavit, [redacted] mentioned that [redacted] litigation with FRITZ KUHN which litigation had received considerable publicity, he had been the recipient of numerous communications from all sorts of irresponsible persons and with that he produced the two enclosed letters, mentioning that they were a sample of the type of correspondence he was receiving, but he stated that he was taking no action on any of these matters and paying no attention to them.

Special Agent [redacted] of this office who was interviewing [redacted] and who was interested in obtaining from him the affidavit concerning KUHN's criminal record, indicated an interest in the two letters and suggested that [redacted] leave them with them which he did.

b7C

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8 MAY 19 1961

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7594-19

A visit was made to the address given, [redacted] and a middle aged woman who was very industriously engaged in scrubbing the floor in the entrance in the building at this address was asked whether there was a [redacted] living

61-520

there and she stated there was, but, however, he was not at home at that time and in further conversation she indicated that [redacted] is her husband. She, of course, was not made aware of the nature of the inquiry and a letter was subsequently forwarded to [redacted] at this address asking him to call at this office which, however, he has not done. b7C

In view of the reference to FRITZ KUHN and the allegation regarding the holding of a man practically as a prisoner, further inquiry will be made in this matter to ascertain from [redacted] the true story behind these communications to [redacted]

The letters and the envelopes submitted herewith are enclosed in cellophane envelopes. They have been handled by Agent [redacted] of this office and also by Special Agent [redacted] and presumably by [redacted] They are submitted for such further attention as the Bureau may deem advisable and the further inquiry referred to above will be held in abeyance for a time in anticipation of any communication the Bureau may desire to send to the New York Office indicating that no such further inquiry should be made.

Very truly yours,

Dwight Brantley

DWIGHT BRANTLEY,
Special Agent in Charge.

encls. (6)

Registered Mail

Copy - ee

[redacted]

April 12th - 39.

[redacted]

Dear Sir:

Sometime ago I wrote you in reference to an invisible government in this country and whos leader was holding a [redacted] [redacted] expecting to send him out of the country on a ship. The people are being watched by federal authorities and havent been able to carry out their desired ambition. As I have explained in my previous letter I have contacted one of the guards and he wanted 5000.00 Through a pledge to give the exclusive story to a local paper and through another I have raised $3500.00 but still lack $1500.00 The full amount must be in their hands by Monday and if you want to help a cause of Justice and Democracy you will advance this amount or as much of same as possible. I know much about the workings of this organization but [redacted] has dates, places, pictures and signatures. This $1500.00 or any portion of it that you advance will be returned to you just as soon as the story is sold. Some 10 people have disappeared trying to tell this story but I am quite sure at least one got through to the Federal authorities. Don't notify Police as they will break up the Federal authorities' plans. I will phone you Friday about 1:15 and if you advance this money I will give you several articles of proof

b7C

Yours truly

/s/

[redacted]

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8 MAY 19 1961

61-7594-19

61- HQ-7549

Serial 19

61-HQ-7549-E19

EBF

b7C

# To Transfer file - Call 3421

# Recharge File Every 90 Days

8 pcs

Service: PICKUP

ROUTE TO

| Name | Bldg. | TL. | Room | Ext. | Subject |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| [redacted] | JEH | | 6359 | [redacted] | FRITZ KUHN |

| File Number | Serial (S) | Date | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 61-7594 | 19 - EBF | 12/23/03 | 0 |

LATEST SERIALS

| Serial | Date | Type | Status | From / To | Catego |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | |

Subject

Subject REQUESTOR PHONE: [redacted]

Subject

DK52927

)ERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
ED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, $300

b7C

61-7594-19

b7C

[redacted]

LONG ISLAND CITY, N.Y.
APR 13
12-PM
1939

INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION

Personal

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U.S. DEPARTM
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ATORY
INVESTIGATION
T OF JUSTICE
N, D. C. 7—2104

Personal

b7C

b7C

April 12th 39

Dear Sir:-

Sometime ago I wrote you in reference to an invisible government in this country and whos leader was holding a [redacted] expecting to send him out of the country on a ship. The people are being watched by federal authorities and haven't [illegible] able to carry out their desired ambi[illegible] As I have explained in my previ[illegible] letter I have contacted one of the g[illegible] and he wanted 5000.00 - Through a [illegible] pledge to give the exclusive story to a [illegible] paper and through another channel [illegible] have raised $3500.00 but still lack $1500.00 The full amount must be in their hands by Monday and if you want to help a cause of justice and Democracy you will advance this amount or as much of same as possible - I know much about the workings of this organization but [redacted] has dates places, pictures and signatures. This $1500.00 or any portion of it that you advance will be returned to you just as soon as the story is sold. Some 10 people have disappeared trying to tell this story but I am quite sure at least one got through to the Federal authorities. Don't notify Police as they will break up the Federal authorities plans - I will phone you Friday about 1.15 and if you advance this money I will give you several articles of proof

Yours truly

[redacted]

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FOR LABO
FEDERAL BUREAU O
U. S. DEPARTMEN
WASHINGT

## ARTICLE III.

## STOCKHOLDERS' MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual Meeting. The annual meeting of the stockholders for the election of directors and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before it, shall be held at the principal office of the corporation, or at such other place as the Board of Directors may select, on the 1st Tuesday of March in each year, at 10 A.M.

Section 2. Quorum. The presence, in person or by proxy, of two-thirds (2/3) of the stockholders entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the stockholders shall be held at the principal office of the corporation, or at such other place as the Board of Directors may select. Such meetings, other than those regulated by statute, may be called at any time by the Board of Directors, or a majority thereof, or by the President. It shall be the duty of the President or the Board of Directors to call such meetings whenever so requested in writing by the stockholders of record who own at least 51% of the shares of the capital stock of the corporation, entitled to vote at such meetings. Notice of such meetings shall specify the object or objects thereof, and no other business than that specified in such notice shall be considered at any such meeting, except upon unanimous consent of all stockholders entitled to notice thereof.

OPEN
NCE!
ATORY
INVESTIGATION
T OF JUSTICE
N, D. C.

letters have been sent to the Dies Committee and I personally wrote to Roosevelt [illegible] but received no answer.

[redacted] tells me that this organization has quite a few agents in Washington and these letters are not getting into the proper hands - I know I am a marked man but if I can serve my Government I will carry my life to do it - The N.Y. police or any other city about cops with this situation - The Federal Government is the only authorities big and smart enough and personally [redacted] and I think the Federal Government is acting in an intelligent and quiet way so they would not want duff.

b7C

OPEN
NCE!
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INVESTIGATION
T OF JUSTICE
ON, D. C. 7—2104

b7C

local authorities throwing
all their work overboard.
Don't call in local police
but if you will do as
I ask this organization
will be exterminated.
Two of the guards that are
watching over [redacted]
have promised to release
him for a cash consi-
deration and an
add was supposed to
be in a local paper
I was delegated to
carry through on this
if this add did'nt
appear I was to act.
These two guards will
require some $5000.00
and there are other
expenses so I will
require some $5600.00
It would not be well
for you to associate
yourself in any way
but if you can get
this money so that I

DO NOT
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FOR LABO
FEDERAL BUREAU O
U. S. DEPARTME
WASHINGT

can free [redacted] I
am sure you will
have served your people
and our Democracy.
[redacted] tells me
that Thursday am is
the last hours
I will phone you
about 4.30 Tuesday
and will make an
appointment for
Tuesday evening
I will identify
myself and give
you more data and
proof but don't
notify anyone
until you see me.

Yours truly

[redacted]

b7C

DO NO
EVID
FOR LAB
FEDERAL BUREAU
U. S. DEPARTM
WASHING

b7C

March 6th 1939

Dear Sir

This may be the greatest letter you have received in your life but I can assure you it is the most important. There is an invisible Government supported by German funds and a party by the name of Kuhn is its chief. This organization is going to overthrow our Government and then all Jews will be slaughtered. I personally have some facts but not sufficient to put the leaders into the hands of Government authorities

DO NO
EVID
FOR LA
FEDERAL BUREA
PARTM

A very good friend of mine [redacted] who has dates pictures, names and places is in the hands of this organization agents and they are waiting to put him on a ship to Germany. Some ten faithful Americans have vanished from sight while trying to tell this story to the proper authorities however [redacted] tells me that some Federal Government had an agent at all this organization's meeting but if this is so I don't see why truth has not been picked up. The Federal people may have him and his gang under watch waiting to get the whole organization I am told that General

b7C

# Kuhn and Seven Associates Accused Of Tax Violations

Mayor Tom

## La Guardia Directs Dewey to Take Action Against Bund Group

By the Associated Press.

NEW YORK, May 18.—A report accusing Fritz Kuhn, president of the German-American Bund, and seven business associates of 40 violations of city relief tax laws was turned over to District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey today. Mayor La Guardia sent it to the prosecutor for "such prosecutive action * * * as you may deem proper."

Conviction on the offenses listed in the 42-page report, all misdemeanors, would carry a maximum punishment of six years in prison and $6,000 in fines.

**Four Concerns Accused.**

Four corporations connected with activities of the bund also were accused of tax delinquencies. The report was prepared by William D. Herlands, commissioner of investigation, after a lengthy inquiry into bund affairs.

The report charged Kuhn, his associates and the corporations with six types of misdemeanor—filing fraudulent tax returns, failing to file sales tax returns, failing to register as a vendor, failing to keep records to compute a sales tax, failing to file business tax returns and failing to file personal property tax returns.

Recommending immediate action, Mr. Herlands said his inquiry had been "greatly interfered with and obstructed by the failure of Kuhn and other bund officials to produce membership lists and a number of other records."

**"Not Running Away."**

Commenting on a statement in the report that two bund officials had sailed for Germany since the investigation began, Kuhn said at his office that he and his associates were "not running away from anything."

Besides Kuhn the individuals named were James Wheeler Hill, bund national secretary; Max Rapp and William Leudtke, treasurer and secretary of the German-American Business League; Richard Mettin, treasurer of the A. V. Publishing Corp., which publishes the bund's official organ; Max Buckte, manufacturer of bund uniforms; Karl Kienzler, officer of a company which imports swastika emblems, and Fred Hackl, head of a company which handles the bund's printing.

After the report was made public, however, it was learned that Mettin had died Tuesday night in St. Vincent's Hospital, Staten Island, after a week's illness.

The corporations named were the German-American Business League, the A. V. Publishing Corp., Kienzler & Schimpf, Inc., and the Hackl Press, Inc.

| |
|---|
| Mr. Tolson |
| Mr. Nathan |
| Mr. E. A. Tamm |
| Mr. Clegg |
| Mr. Coffey |
| Mr. Crowl |
| Mr. Egan |
| Mr. Foxworth |
| Mr. Glavin |
| Mr. Harbo |
| Mr. Lester |
| Mr. McIntire |
| Mr. Nichols |
| Mr. Quinn Tamm |
| Mr. Tracy |
| Miss Gandy |

Page

WASH. [illegible]

INDEXED

NOT RECORDED

MAY 18 1939

61-7594-19X

# LAGUARDIA DEMANDS DEWEY ACT AGAINST BUND HEADS ON CHARGES

## Herlands Lists Tax Violation By Nazis

Mayor Orders Herlands Submit Report on Kuhn Evasions

DAILY WORKER

MAY 18 1939

INDEXED

NOT RECORDED

61-7594-19X1

By Harry Raymond

Mayor LaGuardia last night called on District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey to take "prosecutor's action" against Fritz Kuhn and seven other leaders of the Nazi German-American Bund.

He ordered Commissioner of Investigation William B. Herlands to submit evidence gathered by him purporting to show that the Bund officials had dodged payments of sales and business taxes over a long period.

Those charged with tax-dodging besides Fritz Kuhn, who is president of the Bund are: Max Rapp, treasurer of the German-American Businessmen's League; William Leudtke, general manager of the German-American Businessmen's League; Richard Metten, treasurer of the A. V. Publishing Corp., publishers of Nazi and anti-Semitic literature and also national treasurer of the Bund; James Wheeler-Hill, national secretary of the Bund and secretary of the J. V. Publishing Corp.; Max Buchte, Queens custom tailor and manufacturer of Nazi uniforms; Karl Kienzler, president of the Kienzler and Schimpf Corp., 130 W. 42nd St., importers of swastika emblem armbands, and Fred Kackal, president of the Kackal Press, Inc., 1564 3rd Ave., Manhattan, Bund publishers and printers.

NAZI FLEE U.S.

Two of the Bund officials, according to Mr. Herlands, fled the country during the investigation carried on by the Commissioner of Investigation. The investigation was launched on Feb. 28 of this year.

The men who fled were Karl Nicolay, Brooklyn Bund leader, and Fritz Schwiering, business manager of the A. V. Publishing Corp.

Nicolay, according to Herlands, fled to Germany last April after he was served with a subpoena to appear at a Department of Investigation hearing.

Schwiering, Mr. Herlands said, left for Germany on May 3. Both are American citizens, but [illegible]g, according to advises from the State Department, sailed on a German ship without a passport.

The persons named in the Herlands report to the Mayor, which covers 42 pages, have been constantly under surveillance by the police department which was ordered to take steps to prevent any of the Bund leaders from leaving the country.

MAYOR BLOCKS FLIGHT

Fritz Kuhn and other Nazi leaders had sought to secure American passports from the State Department some time ago but were blocked by Mayor LaGuardia who asked Secretary of State Cordell Hull to withhold the applications.

Mr. Herlands said that the Bund leaders had "greatly interfered" with and "had obstructed" the investigation of the tax payments by their failure to produce membership lists of their organizations. These lists, he pointed out, would have been a great aid in determining the amount of uniforms, swastikas, badges, books and other Nazi trappings sold by the Bund and their affiliated organizations.

The Commissioner of Investigation said that his probe had revealed that the Bund currently was issuing thousands of application blanks, forms and other materials which ordinarily would have been considered part of the organization records. Kuhn and his associates, Herlands explained, had failed to produce these records upon subpoena.

LIABLE TO CONTEMPT

"It is possible," said Mr. Herlands, "that Kuhn and his associates are liable to criminal contempt procedures for failure to produce the records.

"The record of the German-American Businessmen's League," Mr. Herlands said, "was kept on stacks of paper and paper bags."

Notwithstanding the difficulties, the Department of Investigation, he said, established the fact that Kuhn was the only man who knows how the money of the Bund was spent. The reports pointed out that no report on the fund of the Bund were ever made to the membership.

"It is a financial dictatorship," said Mr. Herlands, referring to the Bund.

He also suggested that Mr. Dewey investigate the possibility of an embezzlement charge to be placed against the Nazi "fuehrer."

LIST VIOLATIONS

The violations cited by Mr. Herlands included:

Nine violations in sales tax returns against Kuhn and Rapp, Luedtke as officers of the German-American Businessmen's League, failure to register as venders, failure to pay personal property tax and failure to keep proper records of sales, a total tax liability placed by Herlands against the German-American Businessmen's League of $8[illegible]1.03;

Ten violations of sales tax returns against Kuhn, Metten and Wheeler-

Hill, amounting to $50.80;

Five violations on tax returns against Buchte amounting to $897.06;

Three violations against the Kienzler and Schimpf Corp., amounting to $50.70;

Eight violations against the Kackal Press and its president, Fred Kackal, amounting to $2,986.31.

Mr. Herlands said that his investigation revealed that Kienzler for more than six years had been the agent for the Hamburg-American Steamship Line and had only recently changed his occupation. The Kackal Press, according to the report, printed the anti-Semitic, Nazi literature for the Bund and also printed the program for the Medison Square Garden Nazi rally, held recently.

These charges are misdemeanors, each one carrying a maximum prison penalty of three years. The report to the Mayor was delivered to Mr. Dewey last night by Abraham M. Bloch, chief law assistant to Mr. Herlands.

# Pressure Gets Dewey Pledge To Act on Bund

## Tells LaGuardia Data on Tax Evasions Will Be Sent to Grand Jury

In answer to a request from Mayor LaGuardia that he take immediate steps to prosecute Nazi Bund leader Fritz Kuhn, and investigate the activities of the Bund, District Attorney Dewey in a letter to the Mayor yesterday, said his office was acting on the matter.

Mayor LaGuardia Wednesday urged the District Attorney to "take prosecutor's action" against the Nazi leader and seven of his associates in the Bund and organizations related to the Nazi outfit.

The Mayor ordered Commissioner of Investigation William Herlands to turn over to Dewey all evidence gathered against the Bund officials on evasions of sales and business taxes.

In his letter of reply to the Mayor's urgent demand for prosecution of the Nazis, Dewey wrote that he intended to present to the Grand Jury evidence relating to the alleged sales and business tax evasions, as well as more serious charges, which he referred to a "certain alleged substantial felonies."

The felonies mentioned were believed to deal with the theft of funds from Bund finances.

Mr. Dewey yesterday, in answer to queries, did not set a date for the presentation of evidence against Kuhn and his cohorts to the Grand Jury.

The eight Bund officials under investigation and possible prosecution are Kuhn, who is president of the Nazi German American Bund; J. Wheeler Hill, William Leudtke, Max Rapp, Karl Kienzler, Max Buchte and Rred Hackl. The eighth Nazi, Richard Mettin, aged 39, was reported dead. He was said to have died during the past week after a very short illness.

DAILY WORKER

MAY 19 1939

# Why, Mr. Dewey, Why?

The people will applaud the forthright manner in which Mayor LaGuardia has taken the initiative against Hitler's tool, Fritz Kuhn, and the subversive un-American Bund. This band of Nazi agents and uniformed knife-wielders has been gnawing—with impunity—at the vitals of democracy in this city and nation far too long.

It is true that the Mayor, on the basis of a substantial investigation, has requested their prosecution for violations of the business and sales taxes, in fact some 40 of these violations. But it is plain to all that their deliberate evasions of tax laws, their contempt for the business statutes of the city and state, is only part of their general hatred and disdain for democracy, for law and order, and for the welfare of people. That is fascism, all over.

What sticks out immediately, is that the Mayor had to call on Mr. Dewey to take action. It is a downright scandal that someone had to call on Mr. Dewey to start prosecution of the most dangerous kind of criminals imaginable. Mr. Dewey should have been in action long ago—without any self-starter.

Continuously, he has been trying to keep his political face a perfect blank—even in the midst of the present reactionary debauchery by the GOP in Albany. But now the plumed knight—the chosen son of Hoover—must be prodded even on his "specialty," prosecuting.

The people want to know, why? Can it be because the anti-Semitic Bundsters are a part of the propaganda machine of Mr. Dewey's party? Can it be because Kuhn and his brown-shirts did such a swell job at their Madison Square Garden meeting of whooping it up for Hoover and slandering President Roosevelt, the New Deal and American democracy? The people want to know, and have a right to know.

One answer is already clear: The people don't want any more grass growing under Mr. Dewey's feet so far as the immediate prosecution of these fascist law-breakers is concerned.

DAILY WORKER

MAY 19 1939

# Strange Death of Bund Official Impedes Probe

By Ernest Moorer

Three days ago Mayor LaGuardia urged the State Department to keep a watchful eye on the leaders of the Nazi Bund, facing indictment for tax evasions, lest they attempt to skip the country. Yesterday it was revealed that one of the top leaders of the Bund was mysteriously dead and speedily cremated and that another had fled to Germany two weeks ago.

The two men beyond reach of the courts today are Richard J. Mettin, national treasurer of the Bund, and Fritz Schwiering, New Brighton Bund leader. A State Department announcement in Washington yesterday revealed that Schwiering skipped the country with his wife and one-year-old daughter aboard the German-American liner Hamburg on the night of May 3.

But strangest was the case of Richard J. Mettin, who besides his high position in Hitler's American branch organization, was also treasurer of the A. V. Publishing Co., publishers of the Weckruf und Beobachter, U. S. Nazi organ.

Here it should be noted that the missing Schwiering was business manager of this same Nazi sheet.

Mettin was allegedly taken critically ill on Saturday, May 6 at his home at 29 Norwood Ave., Clifton, Staten Island, where he lived with his ~~wife and~~ sister.

He was attended by Dr. H. Briggin of 198 Broad St., St. George, who told the Daily Worker yesterday that he had not known Mettin prior to his illness. Mettin had been a resident of Staten Island for 10 years.

Three days later, Dr. Briggin advised his removal to St. Vincent's Hospital.

**HURRIEDLY CREMATED**

On Tuesday of this week the man listed as Mettin at St. Vincent's hospital died. Dr. Briggin said his death was caused by an infection of the blood stream.

Late Wednesday he was cremated at the Rose Hill Crematorium Linden, N. J., and his ashes were still at the crematorium yesterday.

Strangest of all was the fact that on the same day Dr. Briggin was called to treat Mettin on his deathbed this reporter saw and spoke to a man presented as Mettin and acting officially for the German-American Bund.

The occasion was the luncheon at the Hotel Astor, given by the American Defense Society at which U. S. Senator Robert R. Reynolds was the featured speaker.

The luncheon was attended by Fritz Kuhn and nine officers of the Bund who sat at table number two which was reserved in the name of RICHARD J. METTIN, "and guests."

During the luncheon a man who said he was Mettin and who was ~~seated~~ at Kuhn's table handed newspaper men a typewritten slip of paper which gave the names of the Bund officials seated there. This reporter asked the man to identify James Wheeler-Hill, secretary of the Bund, whose name was on the slip of paper. "Mettin" pointed out the ruddy-faced Wheeler-Hill sitting across the table from Kuhn.

Mettin, as national-treasurer of the Bund, was custodian of the financial records of the Nazi organization and it was upon these records that City Treasurer Almerindo Portfolio and later Commissioner of Investigation William B. Herlands based their inquiry into the Bund's tax dodging.

Yesterday the case against the Bund officials was turned over to District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey by the city officials for action.

What action Dewey intended to take concerning an investigation of Mettin's death could not be ascertained, but it was assumed that some investigation was in progress because the Mettin death certificate yesterday had been removed from the Staten Island health department and turned over to Thomas J. Duffield, registrar of records.

DAILY WORKER

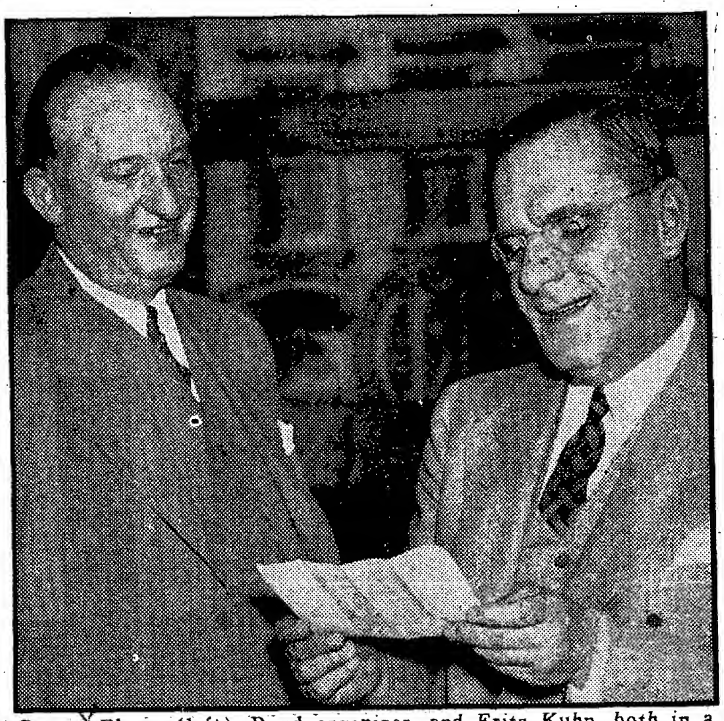
MAY 19 1939

KMm

# Summon Kuhn for Grand Jury Probe Of Bund Finances

By JEAN ADAMS.

Fritz Kuhn, German-American Bund leader, was subpoenaed late yesterday to appear before the Grand Jury in "John Doe" proceedings aimed at tracing "several thousand dollars" allegedly missing from Bund funds. The subpoena is returnable Monday.



*Gustav Elmer (left), Bund organizer, and Fritz Kuhn, both in a jovial mood, examine the subpoena handed Kuhn yesterday at the Bund's 85th St. headquarters, where they "waited" to be arrested.*

Earlier, Kuhn was furious because of a "leak" from District Attorney Dewey's office to the effect that an indictment would be sought against him on an embezzlement charge. He retaliated by roaring an accusation that "men from Dewey's office stole $1,380 from me."

"Dewey hasn't a thing on me," Kuhn, long-embattled head of the Bund, declared. "Why doesn't he lock me up now? If he had anything on me he would; he wouldn't wait."

Kuhn, who recently was forestalled from sailing to his native Germany as a result of investigation of his organization by Commissioner of Investigation Herlands and the orders of Mayor LaGuardia, said he expected to demand Dewey's removal from office. He declared:

"I am going to ask Governor Lehman to oust him. He broke the law himself. He searched my house without a warrant. His men stole money from my safe. They also searched the home of my secretary illegally and even stole his cigarettes."

It was learned Dewey will begin presentation of evidence against Kuhn and six of his bund followers next Monday or Tuesday. His investigators have been studying the orgnization's books since they raided Kuhn's Yorkville stronghold several days ago.

Dewey, in the meantime, answered Mayor LaGuardia's stiffly-couched letter of Wednesday, in which he urged that Kuhn and his aides be charged with cheating the city out of more than $4,000 in sales taxes on Nazi emblems, uniforms, pamphlets and other paraphernalia sold to bund members.

## Dewey's Answer

Dewey, in his letter, told Mayor LaGuardia:

"Books of the German-American Bund and related corporations were subpoenaed by my office on May 2 and have been in process of examination since.

"This was in the course of an investigation of certain alleged substantial felonies which my office has been conducting for the past several weeks.

"Accordingly, I have directed that the alleged misdemeanors be also presented to the grand jury in conjunction with the major investigation now in progress."

Seven days after Dewey's raid on Kuhn's office, the Bund leader called at the Criminal Court Building and lodged his accusation against Dewey raiders.

Kuhn said last night he had remained in his office all day, "hoping Dewey would send up his men to arrest me."

Gustav Elmer, one of his cohorts, also "awaited" arrest.

He said:

"I'm not going to run away either. What's the matter with them down there? I guess the Mayor needs the publicity."

Meanwhile, LaGuardia and Dewey figuratively "sawed wood" and said nothing. They intimated, however, that developments are pending.

Meanwhile, funeral services for one of Kuhn's followers, Richard Mettin, were held in Staten Island yesterday. He died in St. Vincent's Hospital, St. George, following an infection. He had been involved in the investigation.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

See Am Bund Page

INDEXED

New York Daily Mirror

NOT RECORDED

61-7594-19X2

MAY 19 1939

# Bund Head Seized As Thief

## Jury Indicts Fritz Kuhn On 12 Counts Of Larceny

Taken Into Custody By Dewey Police In Pennsylvania; $10,000 Bail Hinted

By the Associated Press.

WASHINGTON POST

MAY 26 1939

NOT RECORDED INDEXED

61-7594-1913

New York, May 25.—Fritz Kuhn, leader of the pro-Nazi German-American Bund, was arrested late today by New York detectives in Krumsville, Pa., to answer a histily returned indictment charging forgery and grand larceny involving $14,589.59.

District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey accused the bundsfuehrer of being "just a common thief" and expressed a belief that he was fleeing when overtaken.

The New York County prosecutor disclosed that three detectives shadowed Kuhn all day, planning to take him into custody as soon as the 12-count indictment could be filed. It was handed up to General Sessions Judge Cornelius F. Collins at 3 p. m., and a warrant for his arrest was made out 15 minutes later.

The detectives telephoned for instructions at 5:45 o'clock and made the arrest within a few minutes. They told Dewey they trailed Kuhn and three other men in a motor car to the Pennsylvania Pennsylvania town.

Asked whether he believed Kuhn was trying to escape, Dewey replied "it looked that way."

**3 Trunks Picked Up**

The indictment detailed the alleged theft of $8,907.35 from the Bund and charged misappropriation of funds from a Bund rally at Madison Square Garden February 20—a meeting which resulted in only one minor disorder while virtually the entire police force stood ready to quell any trouble.

Two counts of the indictment charged the theft of $4,424.22 from funds raised to defend Bund members who were convicted at Riverhead, N. Y., of neglect to file with the State records of its official personnel.

The detectives told Dewey that Kuhn's car stopped at Krumsville for gasoline and that three trunks were loaded into it there. Dewey said traveling bags had been picked up at three separate stops in New York earlier in the day by Kuhn and his companions, who were not immediately identified.

**To Ask $10,000 Bail**

Dewey, declaring conviction on all counts could result in maximum prison terms totaling 50 years, said he would ask that bail be fixed at $10,000 when Kuhn is taken before a magistrate in Hamburg, Pa., to determine extradition proceedings.

Kuhn's departure came two days after he was called before a grand jury here, but was excused upon refusal to waive immunity.

Four counts in the indictment charge the theft of $565.76 in Bund funds set aside supposedly for transportation of furniture for one Mrs. Florence Camp from Los Angeles to New York, and the theft of $151.26 for bringing her furniture here from Cleveland. Mrs. Camp was described as a friend of Kuhn's.

# Fritz Kuhn, Bund Leader, Held as Thief

## He Is Arrested by Dewey Detectives In Pennsylvania; Extradition Waived

*Special Dispatch to The Post.*

New York, May 23.—Fritz Kuhn, "Fuehrer" of the German-American Bund, was arrested by District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey's detectives today at Krumsville, Pa., three hours after a New York County grand jury had indicted him on 12 counts of grand larceny and forgery for allegedly stealing $14,548.59 of his pro-Nazi organization's funds.

Headed Westward in an automobile with three companions, the 44-year-old Bund head was taken to the State police barracks at Hamburg, Pa., where he waived extradition and prepared to return to New York to face the charges. Apparently resigned to the swiftness of his indictment and apprehension, he refused stolidly to comment on the allegations, which, in the event of conviction, could bring him a maximum term of 50 years in State prison.

**Followed by Police**

Unquestionably pleased at the successful capture, Dewey commented: "The indictment shows that Kuhn is just a common thief."

Kuhn's indictment charged six counts of first degree grand larceny, four counts of second-degree grand larceny and two counts of third-degree forgery. The first two counts accuse him of stealing $8,907.35 from the bund by misappropriating funds collected at the organization's rally at Madison Square Garden on February 20. The rally, devoted to violent denunciation of American Jewry and present heads of the American Government, was guarded by one of the heaviest police concentrations ever assembled in New York.

Two more counts alleged a further theft by the bund head of $4,424.22 from a fund raised for the defense of six officials of the German-American Settlement League, which operates Camp Siegfried near Riverhead, Long Island, for Nazi sympathizers. They were convicted of violating the State civil rights law in failing to file membership lists with the secretary of state, as required of oath-bound organizations. The verdict has been reversed by the appellate division.

**2 Forgery Counts**

Another theft of $565.76 of the bund money, according to the indictment, was for the purpose of paying for the transportation of Mrs. Florence Camp's furniture from Los Angeles to New York. Mrs. Camp was photographed with Kuhn when they visited the New York World's Fair ten days ago. A second moving of furniture from New York to Cleveland also was financed by $151.25 of the bund's money, the indictment alleges.

Kuhn also stole $500 from the Settlement League, the indictment continues, by drawing a check to his own order, cashing it and charging it off the books to legal fees paid to James D. C. Murray, attorney, for arguing the league's officials' appeal in the Camp Siegfried case. Murray never got the money, it is alleged.

The final two counts merely charge Kuhn with forgery in making false entries in his books.

WASHINGTON POST

MAY 26 1939

# Bund Chief Seized in Theft

## Kuhn Arrested, Denies Forgery

### Scoffs at Charge He Took $15,000 from Funds Of U. S. Bund

NEW YORK, May 26 (U.P.). Fritz Kuhn, president of the German-American Bund and the fuehrer of American Nazis, was jailed today on a bench warrant charging grand larceny and forgery.

He faced a maximum of 50 years' imprisonment on a 12-count indictment handed up yesterday by the grand jury. It charged that he had stolen nearly $15,000 from the bund.

Kuhn was arrested by agents of District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey at a gasoline station outside Krumsville, Pa., about 30 miles from Allentown, yesterday. He denied he was fleeing arrest. Dewey's detectives, it was revealed, have been trailing him for more than a week.

They did not know until they telephoned New York from Krumsville that the indictment had been returned. With Kuhn were Thomas Dixon, Gustav Elmer, a bund organizer, and Gerhardt Kunze, publicity agent for the bund. They said they were en route to Chicago for a speaking engagement.

Kuhn, who fought in the German army during the World War and now is an American citizen, left New York abruptly yesterday. He picked up three suitcases at different addresses and drove off, unaware that his every move was watched by detectives.

**Waives Extradition**

He waived extradition and was returned to New York by Detectives James Cashman, James Canavan and Joseph Norbuty early today.

Kuhn, 43, portly, usually somber and little given to joking, greeted photographers and newspapermen at police headquarters jovially. Asked about the alleged defalcations, he said: "It's a lot of nonsense."

Asked about specific counts in the indictment, his expression changed and he snapped: "That's my business."

He said he had been surprised at the indictment but more surprised that he had been shadowed without him knowing it for a week. He resented implications that he had been fleeing.

**Result of Long Inquiry**

The indictment climaxed seven weeks of investigation into bund affairs. It charged, in one count, that Kuhn had stolen $8,907 of the proceeds of the Washington's Birthday "Americanization" meeting at Madison Square Garden. Other counts listed specific instances of alleged diversion of bund funds. The last two counts charged third-degree forgery.

Kuhn had executed an about-face on Wednesday when, after announcing he would waive immunity to testify before the grand jury, changed his mind about waiving and angrily strode out of the room.

WASHINGTON TIMES HERALD

MAY 26 1939

FRITZ KUHN (center) BOOKED AT NEW YORK POLICE STATION
*Bund Fuehrer shown with detectives who trailed him to Pennsylvania.—I.N.P.*

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. MaIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

# KUHN SEIZED IN THEFT OF BUND'S MONEY

## Leader Trailed to Small Town In Pennsylvania by N. Y. Officers; Waives Extradition

READING, Pa., May 25 (U.P.). Fritz Kuhn, German-American bund leader, was en route to New York tonight to face grand larceny and forgery charges in connection with his bund activities. Kuhn left the West Reading barracks of the Pennsylvania State motor police with three New York detectives, and was expected to reach New York early tomorrow.

Kuhn was arrested earlier in Krumville and brought here while extradition papers were arranged. The party left for New York at 8:30 p. m. (E.S.T.)

**Trailed From New York**

Kuhn was arrested by New York Detectives James Cashman, James Canazan and Joseph Norbury, attached to the office of District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey. They had trailed Kuhn and three companions traveling in Kuhn's automobile, to Krumville, where the party stopped for dinner.

Kuhn offered no resistance when the New York detectives, supplemented by Pennsylvania State troopers, entered the small town gasoline station. Police said he remained calm and apparently was cheerful despite his detention.

He has been indicted on 12 counts of grand larceny and forgery by the New York county grand jury. The indictment charged him with larceny of $14,548 in bund funds and forgery in connection with entries in the organization's books.

**Companions Not Held**

The Fuehrer's three companions were not held. They identified themselves as Thomas Dixon, of Manhattan; Gustave Elmer, of Hoboken, N. J., and Gerhard Wilhelm Kunz of Astoria, Queens. All three confirmed Kuhn's declaration that they were headed to address a Bund meeting in Chicago tomorrow night and one in Milwaukee the next night. Their bags contained Bund uniforms to be used for this purpose.

If convicted on all 12 counts Kuhn could be sentenced to 50 years in prison.

The first two counts allege misuse of funds from a Madison Square Garden rally on February 20.

The next two charge embezzlement of $4,424.22 raised for the defense of members of the Bund who were tried at Riverhead, L. I., for violation of a State law on registration of membership.

**Other Funds Involved**

The fifth and sixth counts concerned $565.76 used to pay for the shipment from Los Angeles to New York of furniture belonging to Mrs. Florence Camp, with whom Kuhn was photographed at the World Fair here on May 3. He has said he planned to marry Mrs. Camp.

Two more counts alleged a further theft by the bund head of $4,424.22 from a fund raised for the defense of six officials of the German-American Settlement League, which operates Camp Siegfried near Riverhead, Long Island, for Nazi sympathizers.

INDEXED

NOT RECORDED

61-7594-19X4

MAY 26 1939

MAY 26 1939

# Fritz Kuhn, Bund Leader, Held as Thief

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*Special Dispatch to The Post.*

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Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

MAY 26 1939

# WASHINGTON CITY NEWS SERVICE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

NEW YORK.--FRITZ KUHN, WAS RELEASED FROM TOMBS PRISON LATE TODAY WHEN HE RAISED $5,000 BAIL.

5/26--E503P

# WASHINGTON CITY NEWS SERVICE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. S. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Candy

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COMMUNICATIONS

Fritz Kuhn

1 ADD KUHN, NEW YORK

KUHN STILL WAS IN A CELL AT THE TOMBS AT MIDAFTERNOON WHILE GUSTAVE ELMAR, A BUND ORGANIZER, ATTEMPTED TO RAISE THE BAIL. KUHN HAD $2,500-HALF THE AMOUNT.

5/26--R249P

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowley
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

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COMMUNICATIONS

# WASHINGTON CITY NEWS SERVICE

MAY 27 3 15 PM '39
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U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

NEW YORK--FREE OF $5,000 BOND, FRITZ KUHN SAID TODAY THAT THE CHARGES OF LARCENY AND FORGERY AGAINST HIM, CARRYING A POSSIBLE 50-YEAR PRISON SENTENCE IN CASE OF CONVICTION WERE "A LOT OF NONSENSE."

HE IS CHARGED WITH STEALING $14,548.59 FROM THE BUND.

AFTER PLEADING NOT GUILTY TO ALL 12 COUNTS IN HIS INDICTMENT, HE WAS CONFINED IN THE TOMBS FOR SIX HOURS, UNTIL GUSTAV ELMER, NATIONAL ORGANIZER FOR THE BUND, ARRIVED WITH A SACK FULL OF $5 AND $10 BILLS FOR HIS BAIL. WARDEN WILLIAM ADAMS TOOK AN HOUR TO COUNT THE MONEY.

JUDGE CORNELIUS F. COLLINS, BEFORE WHOM HE WAS ARRAIGNED, SET NO DATE FOR TRIAL.

5/27--W0907A

INDEXED

61-7594-1915

May 18, 1939

JEH:CD
Time 3:58 PM

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM

I telephoned [redacted] in response to his request and he advised me that Mayor LaGuardia has turned over the evidence in the German-American Bund Tax Case to Thomas Dewey in New York. He stated the story was carried by the New York Times on the front page and also by the New York Daily News and Mirror.

I told [redacted] that I had submitted to the Attorney General a complete memorandum brief on all the activities of Kuhn and the whole picture, including the legal authorities, which consisted of about a seventy page report. I also stated that I felt this was a good case and the Attorney General is reading the report before reaching any decision. He is now holding it. I advised [redacted] that I was hoping the Attorney General might reach some decision before he goes away because I felt that it was not too late yet to move on the denaturalization.

[redacted] stated that he told the Attorney General and a few others, that his, [redacted] friends in the newspaper business said that if this story were dramatized correctly that it should reach every house and service in the country. I replied that it was unfortunate that the Federal authorities did not move before Dewey did, but at present this report is in the Attorney General's hands and it is not known when he will reach a decision.

[redacted] advised that the only point he was bringing up was that he wanted us to look at the News and Mirror since we had discussed this problem. I

b7C

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
MAY 19 1939
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED & INDEXED.

62-75594-20
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAY 25 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

b7C

told him that I would certainly look over these articles and speak to the Attorney General to see if some move could not be made on our part. [redacted] said he just called to confidentially advise me of this release, although he would rather not be placed in the position that it appeared he was pressing this issue.

I told him we could have had this ourselves and that I would see if we can get some action on this matter.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

*Washington Evening Star*
*May 18, 1939*

# Jury Investigation In Bund Tax Case Directed by Dewey

## Takes Action on Report From Mayor La Guardia On Herlands' Inquiry

By the Associated Press.

NEW YORK, May 18.—District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey announced today that in conjunction with a "major investigation" of the pro-Nazi German-American Bund being made by his own office, he had directed a grand jury investigation of misdemeanor tax avoidance accusations against National Bund Leader Fritz Kuhn and others brought by the city administration.

He acted on the basis of a report from Mayor La Guardia of an inquiry made by William B. Herlands, the city commissioner of investigation, alleging various claims of tax evasion and violation of the city relief tax laws.

At the same time, in a letter to the mayor, Mr. Dewey stressed that his own staff had been making an investigation of "certain alleged substantial felonies," and that this inquiry would go on.

He called attention to the fact that on May 2 his office had subpoenaed books and records of the Bund "and related corporations," and rejected as "absurd" an assertion by Kuhn that $1,800 had disappeared from the Bund office in connection with that raid.

All offenses alleged by Mr. Herlands were misdemeanors.

Four corporations connected with activities of the bund also were accused of tax delinquencies. The report was prepared by William B. Herlands, commissioner of investigation, after a lengthy inquiry into bund affairs.

The report charged Kuhn, his associates and the corporations with six types of misdemeanor—filing fraudulent tax returns, failing to file sales tax returns, failing to register as a vendor, failing to keep records to compute a sales tax, failing to file business tax returns and failing to file personal property tax returns.

Recommending immediate action, Mr. Herlands said his inquiry had been "greatly interfered with and obstructed by the failure of Kuhn and other bund officials to produce membership lists and a number of other records."

Besides Kuhn the individuals named were James Wheeler Hill, bund national secretary; Max Rapp and William Leudtke, treasurer and secretary of the German-American Business League; Richard Mettin, treasurer of the A. V. Publishing Corp., which publishes the bund's official organ; Max Buckte, manufacturer of bund uniforms; Karl Kienzler, officer of a company which imports swastika emblems, and Fred Hackl, head of a company which handles the bund's printing.

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**
**United States Department of Justice**
**Washington, D. C.**

May 22, 1939

EAT:HA

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

On May 18 I furnished to [redacted] a copy of the Bureau's summary memorandum upon Fritz Kuhn advising him that you desired he have this data in order that he might look it over because of its pertinency to the brief which he had submitted concerning the possibility of Kuhn's being subject to deportation. Subsequently [redacted] called me and advised that he did not believe the facts furnished were sufficient to justify any proceedings against Kuhn. I pointed out to [redacted] that we had requested the State Department to endeavor to verify Kuhn's criminal record in Munich.

b7C

Respectfully,

E. A. Tamm.

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&
INDEXED

61-7594-20X

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 6 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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R 95 MAY 17 1961

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**
**United States Department of Justice**
**Washington, D. C.**

May 24, 1939

EAT:COH

Time: 9:05 a.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

RE: GERMAN-AMERICAN BUND

Bu 209

[redacted] of the Department of State called in connection with a copy of a report submitted to Mayor LaGuardia by the Investigative Committee which touches upon activities of the German-American Bund, [redacted] Fritz Kuhn and others. [redacted] stated he wanted to be sure I had a copy of the report. I told him I would check and in the event the Bureau has not been furnished a copy of such report, I would get in touch with him.

b7C

E. A. TAMM

I called [redacted] at 9:40 am 5-25-39. He has one copy of a 30 page report on the above - will make a copy available to us in the immediate future

K.R.M.

RECORDED & INDEXED.

61-7594-21

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAY 25 1939
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

# FALSE RETURN ON SALES TAX LAID TO BUND

## Mayor, Herlands and Portfolio Decide to Prosecute

The arrest of Fritz Kuhn, national leader of the German-American Bund and Nazi spokesman in this country, and several of his lieutenants was ordered today on charges that they committed perjury in connection with sales tax reports.

Decision to arrest Kuhn and his henchmen was reached at a City Hall conference between Mayor LaGuardia, Commissioner of Investigation William B. Herlands and City Treasurer Almerindo Portfolio.

Herlands has been conducting an investigation of sales tax reports made by the Bund on uniforms and caps and belts sold to Bund members. Kuhn and other Bund executives were said to have been questioned on these reports, and the truthfulness of their replies now is being challenged.

### Won't Run Away

Kuhn and his associates were at the Bund's office, 186 East Eighty-fifth Street, when the decision to press for their arrest became known.

"I will stay right here," he said. "I didn't do nothing. I will not run away. I am not afraid.

"We will all be here. We told the truth when Portfolio and Herlands questioned us."

On March 29 six local leaders of the Bund were subpenaed by Portfolio, and ordered to produce membership and subscription lists as well as all books, accounts and records pertaining to receipts from the sale of pamphlets, books and uniforms. Bank statements and canceled checks of six Bund units in the city also were subpenaed.

### The Six Leaders

The six leaders summoned for the inquiry were: James Wheeler—Hill acting leader in Manhattan, whose address was not disclosed; Karl Nicholai, 267 St. Nicholas Avenue, Brooklyn, who has since slipped out of the country; Henry Van Holt, 1236 Webster Avenue, The Bronx; Herman Schwarzman, 24-36 Twenty-ninth Street, Astoria; Gustav Vogt, 17 Oakland Avenue, Stapleton, S. I., and Walter Brochers, 133-04 109th Avenue, South Ozone Park, L. I.

E. O. Krause of 308 East Eighty-sixth Street, and Max Buchte of 901 Wyckoff Avenue, Brooklyn, tailors who made Bund uniforms, also were questioned.

Last week an application by Kuhn for a passport was held up by Secretary of State Hull at the request of Mayor LaGuardia, who said Nicholai had quietly sailed for Germany April 6.

The passports of Wilhelm Kunze of 92-39 Lamont Avenue, Elmhurst, Queens, and Fritz Schwiering of 21 Scribner Avenue, New Brighton, S. I., also were held up at the Mayor's request.

INDEXED

NOT RECORDED

61-7594-21X

New York Post

MAY 17 1939

# Kuhn, Jailed on Bund Fraud Charges, Says 'It's All Nonsense'

## Detectives Speed 'Fuehrer' To New York as Aides Go On to Milwaukee

*The German-American Bund is estimated to have 200,000 to 300,000 members in its 65 posts throughout the United States. The bund publishes newspapers in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago and Los Angeles, a national young people's magazine, and maintains a score of summer camps.*

By the Associated Press.

NEW YORK, May 26.—Protesting "It's all nonsense," Fritz Kuhn, national leader of the German-American Bund, was jailed early today on charges of forgery and grand larceny of $14,589 in connection with bund activities.

Kuhn, motoring with three companions to Chicago and Milwaukee, where he was scheduled to speak today and tomorrow, was arrested yesterday afternoon in a roadside lunchroom at Krumsville, Pa., 28 miles northeast of Reading, by detectives who trailed him from New York.

Kuhn was accompanied by Gustav Elmar, national organizer of the Bund, of Hoboken, N. J.; Thomas Dixon of New York, and Gerhard Wilhelm Kunze of Astoria, Long Island.

Kuhn waived extradition before a Reading justice of the peace and was returned to New York by the detectives in an automobile. Elmar accompanied him as far as Newark, N. J.

**Aids Continue Trip West.**

Kunze and Dixon continued their trip, one purpose of which they said was to open a bund camp at Milwaukee.

The bulky, vociferous bundsfuehrer was indicted late yesterday on 12 counts. District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey said conviction could result in prison terms totaling 50 years.

Lt. William Grafnecker of the grand jury squad said Kuhn had been watched more than a week and that the three detectives who arrested him—James Cashman, James Canovan and Joseph Morbury of Dewey's staff—had been under orders "not to let him get far from New York."

When Kuhn and his companions halted for lunch the three telephoned New York and were told the indictment had been returned.

Kuhn never had an opportunity to eat his lunch, for the return trip started almost at once.

**Fingerprinted Early Today.**

Wearing the same torn trousers as when he was arrested—they were held together by a safety pin—Kuhn was booked at 1:25 a.m. (E. S. T.) today, then taken immediately to police headquarters where he was photographed, fingerprinted and lodged in a cell to await appearance before a magistrate.

At the Beach street police station where he was booked, Kuhn appeared cheerful and disclaimed knowledge that he was to be arrested.

"Of course it was a surprise," he remarked, "but I'll take care of that."

"What about that $14,589 you are accused of taking?" he was asked.

"It's all nonsense," replied Kuhn.

The indictment alleges theft of $8,907.35 from the Bund and charges misappropriation of funds from the Washington's Birthday rally which Kuhn led at Madison Square Garden.

Two counts accuse him of the theft of $4,424.22 from funds raised to defend Bund members convicted at Riverhead, N. Y.; of neglect to file with the State records of official personnel, and four counts detail the alleged theft of $565.76 in Bund funds set aside supposedly for transportation of furniture for a Mrs. Florence Camp from Los Angeles to New York, and charge theft of $151.26 for bringing her furniture from Cleveland.

Mrs. Camp was described as a friend of Kuhn's.

**Car Quietly Cornered.**

Kuhn and his three companions had stopped at Schlenker's restaurant and gas station, on route 22. Kenneth Gehringer, attendant at

**READING, PA.—BUND LEADER ARRESTED**—Fritz Kuhn, German American Bund leader, shown leaving State police headquarters at Hamburg, Pa., shortly after his arrest yesterday. Around him are three New York detectives, who trailed him into Pennsylvania. Left to right, are James Cashman, Gustav Elmar and James Canovan. In back is Pennsylvania State Policeman Edward J. Strickland. —A. P. Wirephoto.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

WASH. STAR
MAY 26 1939

NOT RECORDED
61-7594-21X1

the station, said that when Kuhn and his friends pulled up in the car they ordered the gasoline tank filled. Then they stepped inside and asked Alice Young, a waitress, if they could get a meal.

The meal, however, never was served, for almost before the men took their seats another car, bearing a New York license, flashed past the station, quickly turned around and drove directly in front of Kuhn's car.

A man, who identified himself as a "policeman," emerged from the car, took Mr. Gehringer aside and asked him to phone to the State Police substation at Hamburg, Pa., and request an officer be sent at once.

While Gehringer was doing this, he said, the other three men emerged from the car and all four went into the restaurant. With little preliminary, Gehringer said, the four took Kuhn and his three friends into a side room and spoke partly in German and partly in English. Finally the man, who first identified himself as a policeman, said sharply:

"Fritz, you sit down on that chair."

There was no further discussion and soon a State policeman arrived from Hamburg.

**Held Up Passports.**

The grand jury investigation of the Bund grew out of an inquiry instigated by Mayor La Guardia and carried out by Investigation Commissioner William Herlands.

The first overt development came two weeks ago, when the Mayor asked the State Department to hold up passport applications from Kuhn, Kunze and two others, pending completion of the inquiry.

One Bund official under scrutiny, it was disclosed at that time, already had left the country.

Eight days ago Mayor La Guardia turned over to Mr. Dewey the evidence collected by Herlands, "for such prosecutive action as you may deem proper."

Mr. Dewey said the traveling bags of the men when arrested contained Bund uniforms, among other things.

Kuhn, a German World War veteran, who claims to have helped Adolf Hitler in his abortive Munich "beer cellar putsch" of 1923, went from Germany to Mexico soon after, and entered the United States in 1927.

He worked for Henry Ford as a chemist in Detroit and was naturalized in 1933.

The same year he joined "The Friends of New Germany," became president the next year, changed the organization's name to the German-American Bund, and moved his headquarters to New York City.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
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Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

# Kuhn Freed On Bail After Woman's Visit

## $5,000 Mysteriously Provided Although Bund Fails Chief

*By International News Service.*

New York, May 26.—Fritz Kuhn, leader of the German-American Bund indicted for grand larceny and forgery, was released from Tombs Prison tonight even though the storm troopers he is charged with fleecing failed to provide the necessary $5,000 bail.

A dark-haired woman presented herself at the Tombs hours after Kuhn had been locked up after pleading not guilty and asked if bail had yet been provided through Bund sources, as Kuhn had hoped it would be. Told no bail had been paid, she went away and a few minutes later Kuhn's lawyer appeared and paid the bail in cash while the mystery woman waited in a car outside. As soon as Kuhn was released he left with the lawyer and the woman.

The lawyer would not say who the woman was or whether she had provided the bail, mostly in $5 and $10 bills, but he did say it had not come from Bund contributions, which he had hoped to raise.

Kuhn is charged with embezzling more than $14,500 from several Bund organizations, including several hundred dollars said to have been spent to move furniture belonging to Mrs. Florence Camp, a divorcee, from Cleveland and Los Angeles to New York.

Mrs. Camp, with whom the Kuhn indictment says he is infatuated, though he is married, was reported to be in New York today.

Early this morning Kuhn, a German machine gunner in the World War who is now a naturalized American, was brought back from Pennsylvania, where he was arrested. He was paraded at the police lineup, fingerprinted and photographed, and pleaded not guilty to the charges against him.

In court he stood unsmiling at the rail, drumming with heavy fingers on a Bible used for witnesses taking the truth-oath, until the clerk droned:

"Fritz Kuhn, you are charged with grand larceny in the first degree, grand larceny in the second degree, and forgery in the third degree. How do you plead?"

"Not guilty," Kuhn replied emphatically.

The judge showed surprise when the district attorney asked $5,000 bail.

"If it was left to me I would not have fixed it so low," he said.

That figure was set, however, after the prosecutor explained the low amount was in acknowledgement of Kuhn's having waived extradition and having returned from Pennsylvania voluntarily with the arresting officers.

Several professional bondsmen refused to furnish the bail, however, and Kuhn was taken to the Tombs, staying there until his bail was arranged in the late afternoon.

Kuhn was smiling and scornful in the police lineup, under spotlights and the searching gaze of 250 detectives.

"Are these charges against you true, Fritz?" he was asked.

"No."

"Why were you arrested?"

"I don't know, yet."

Leaving police headquarters to enter a police van for the ride to court, Kuhn was grinning until someone in the street crowd yelled:

"Hey, Fritz, wie matcht der Hitler? (How's Hitler doing?)

Kuhn turned to glare at the crowd and then climbed into the barred wagon.

### Kuhn Romance Ended

Long Beach, Calif., May 26 (AP).—The romance between Fritz Kuhn, German-American Bund leader, and Mrs. Florence Camp, Long Beach divorcee, is ended, her brother said today.

Newton Todd, an attorney, explained there had been a romance between his sister and Kuhn but it "has been off now for several months."

Todd related Mrs. Camp met Kuhn aboard ship returning from England several months before her Reno divorce a year ago from a wealthy Long Beach oil man.

WASH. POST

MAY 27 1939

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Coggs
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Herbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

# Fritz Kuhn Freed On $5,000 Bail In Theft Case

## Nazi Chief Pleads Innocent; Mystery Woman Calls At Tombs Prison

NEW YORK, May 26.—Fritz Kuhn, number one Nazi, was released from the Tombs late this afternoon after posting $5,000 bail.

Kuhn, known as the American "Fuehrer," is charged with stealing $14,548 from his own German-American Bund.

**Several Hours in Tombs**

The bund chief had pleaded not guilty to the theft charge earlier today in general sessions court and was remanded to the Tombs when he was unable to post the $5,000 bail. Friends posted the bail after Kuhn had been in the Tombs most of the afternoon.

Identity of the persons who furnished the $5,000 bail to free the Bund leader was kept secret.

Shortly before 4 p. m. a short stocky man in a brown suit and a brown-haired woman in a dark suit entered the warden's office at the Tombs and asked if the bail had been posted. Told that it had not, they left hurriedly.

**Given in $5 and $10 Bills**

Half an hour later Kuhn's attorney, Vahan H. Kalenderian, and Gustave Elmer, a Bund organizer, appeared and produced cash for the bail. Most of the money was in $5 and $10 bills.

"Was the money raised by contributions?" Elmer was asked.

"No," Elmer replied, "someone was kind enough . . ." But Kalenderian hushed him up before he could complete the sentence.

The unidentified man and woman who had inquired first about the bail waited outside the Tombs in a sedan for an hour until Kuhn was released after the bills had been checked for counterfeits.

Judge Cornelius F. Cullins said "$5,000 is a very modest sum" and he would have set the bail higher had there been proposals from District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey's office.

Earlier as followers tried to obtain bond for him, Kuhn paced a cell in the Tombs prison, gloomily hopeful.

Kuhn wore a grey suit with a red pin stripe, white shirt, red tie and highly polished black shoes when he was arraigned in court. His hair was slicked carefully. He drummed his fingers on a Bible which had been left on the table where he sat.

At the lineup, detectives questioned suspected felons and vagrants picked up during the night, saving Kuhn for the last. Then Lieut. James Pytko read the charge against the bund leader and demanded:

"What's this about, Fritz? Is it true?"

"No," Kuhn replied.

"Why were you arrested?" Pytko asked.

"I don't know yet," Kuhn replied.

In answer to routine questions he gave his occupation as "president of the German-American Bund," and said he formerly was a chemical engineer, last employed by the Ford Motor Company in 1936. He is a native of Munich, he said, has lived in the United States for 14 years and never had been arrested previously.

Earlier, he had been questioned by police, photographed and fingerprinted.

Kuhn was arrested at a gasoline station outside Krumsville, Pa., about 30 miles from Allentown, yesterday. He denied he was fleeing arrest. Dewey's detectives, it was revealed, had been trailing him for more than a week.

MAY 27 1939

Herald Times
5-37-39

# KUHN FREED ON $5,000 BAIL IN THEFT CASE

## Bund Chief Pleads Not Guilty; Mysterious Pair Supplies Bond at Tombs in Small Bills

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# Bund Leader on Way to Jail

FRITZ KUHN (RIGHT) AND POLICE OFFICER
*'Fuehrer' Shown Yesterday on Return to N. Y.—Acme.*

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
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CC-150

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

EXPIHA MAY 29 1959

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

Transmit the following message to:

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
SAC
NEW ORLEANS

I HAVE TALKED WITH [redacted] CONCERNING VARIOUS MATTERS OUTLINED BY YOU YESTERDAY AND THERE APPEARS A POSSIBILITY THAT PELLEY CAN BE PROSECUTED UNDER THE NY CODE FOR CRIMINAL LIBEL FOR TRANSMISSION INTO THE DISTRICT OF COPIES OF THE LIBERATION PUBLICATION EDITED BY HIM. INVESTIGATION TO ESTABLISH THE AMOUNT OF THE PARTICULAR ISSUES BELIEVED LIBELOUS HAS BEEN INITIATED WITH DUE CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO THE QUESTION OF FINDING PEOPLE WHO WOULD MAKE PROPER WITNESSES IN A CASE OF THIS KIND INVOLVING AS IT WILL THE PRESIDENT. [redacted] DOES NOT BELIEVE THERE IS ANY BASIS FOR FEDERAL CRIMINAL PROSECUTION OF FRITZ KUHN MUCH POSSIBLY ON THE PREVIOUS ANGLE OF THE NATURALIZATION PROCEEDINGS WHICH IS OF COURSE DEPENDENT UPON OUR ABILITY TO PROVE THE EXISTENCE OF A CRIMINAL RECORD FOR KUHN IN GERMANY. I CONTACTED THE STATE DEPARTMENT TODAY IN AN EFFORT TO EXPEDITE A POSITIVE REPORT AS TO THE EXISTENCE OF THIS CRIMINAL RECORD AND WAS ADVISED BY WARREN THAT THE AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE IN GERMANY HAS BEEN INFORMED BY THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT THAT THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE AVAILABLE ANY RECORD FOUND TO BE IN EXISTENCE. THIS ANSWER OF COURSE PLACES THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT IN A POSITION OF SUBSEQUENTLY STATING THAT NO RECORD EXISTS BUT THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS AWAITING SOME POSITIVE STATEMENT FROM THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT. I HAVE REQUESTED THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO

b7C

Pretty Okay

61-7587-314

ORIGINAL FILED IN 61-7594-22

RECORDED
INDEXED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 2 1959
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

SENT VIA TELETYPE 6:20 M Per A

CC-150

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MAY 29 1939

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

PAGE TWO

Transmit the following message to:

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
NEW ORLEANS

EXPEDITE THIS MATTER AS MUCH AS IT IS POSSIBLE TO DO SO. CONCERNING THE OPERATION OF THE GAMBLING SHIPS OFF THE COAST OF CALIFORNIA [redacted] DOUBTS THE POSSIBILITY OF PROSECUTING THE OPERATORS OF THESE SHIPS UNDER EXISTING FEDERAL STATUTES POINTING OUT HOWEVER THAT A PROPOSED STATUTE IS PRESENTLY PENDING IN CONGRESS WHICH WILL PENALIZE DISHONEST GAMBLING ON THE HIGH SEAS AND THIS MAY OFFER A POTENTIAL WEAPON FOR PROSECUTION OF THESE PEOPLE ASSUMING THE GAMBLING IS DISHONEST. I HAVE DISCUSSED WITH [redacted] THE QUESTION OF HAVING ENACTED SOME PENAL STATUTE DESIGNED TO MAKE IT A FEDERAL OFFENSE TO TRANSPORT PASSENGERS FROM ANY HARBOR OF THE US TO A SHIP OF AMERICAN REGISTRY ON THE HIGH SEAS WITH THE IDEA IN MIND OF PROSECUTING THE OPERATORS OF THE WATER TAXICABS WHICH SERVICE THE GAMBLING SHIPS. HE BELIEVES SUCH A STATUTE CAN BE PUSHED THROUGH THE PRESENT SESSION OF CONGRESS IF YOU DEEM IT DESIRABLE THROUGH COOPERATION WITH THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT. IF YOU DESIRE THIS DONE I WILL HAVE [redacted] MAKE IMMEDIATE ARRANGEMENTS WITH SOUTH TRIMBLE SOLICITOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO DRAFT A SUGGESTED STATUTE FOR STUDY IN THE BUREAU AND TRANSMITTAL TO CONGRESS.

b7C

EDWARD TAMM

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

SENT VIA TELETYPE 6:20 P M Per A

RC:LCB

May 29, 1939.

235-34

The Honorable,
The Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

In connection with an official investigation now being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation of this Department it will be very much appreciated if you will furnish photostatic copies of the income tax returns from 1933 to 1938, inclusive, together with pertinent enclosures thereto, of Fritz Kuhn.

Mr. Kuhn is believed to have resided in 1933 and 1934 at 2959 Hogarth Avenue, Detroit, Michigan. He has subsequently resided at 33-42 73rd Street, Jackson Heights, Queens, New York. It is possible that he may have used the address of the German American Bund, 178 East 85th Street, New York City, in submitting income tax returns.

Sincerely yours,

Acting Attorney General.

Mr. T...
Mr. Natha...
Mr. E. A. T...
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Gluvia
Mr. Nebo
Mr. Taylor
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Michels
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

RECORDED & INDEXED.

61-2594-22X

JUL 1...

Mailed 6-1-39

RC

From
DIVISION OF RECORDS
to
OFFICIAL INDICATED BELOW BY CHECK MARK

| | | Attention of: |
|---|---|---|
| The Attorney General | | |
| The Solicitor General | | C. E. Carr |
| The Assistant to the Attorney General | | |
| Assistant Attorney General Arnold | | |
| Assistant Attorney General Morris | | |
| Assistant Attorney General Whitaker | | |
| Assistant Attorney General Littell | | |
| Assistant Attorney General McMahon | | |
| Assistant Solicitor General Bell | | |
| Mr. Lyons, Pardon Attorney | | b7C |
| Federal Bureau of Investigation | | |
| Bureau of Prisons | | |
| Bond and Spirits | | |
| [redacted] Administrative Assistant | | |
| [redacted] Director of Personnel | | |
| [redacted] eneral Agent | | |
| [redacted] Chief Clerk | | |
| [redacted] Appointment Clerk | | |
| [redacted] Division of Supplies | | |
| [redacted] Transcription Section | | |
| | | |

MEMORANDUM

Sorry but I cannot stamp the attached carbon as we do not have a copy in our files

[redacted]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Files Division

Room 6646 6/24 1939

To:

| | |
|---|---|
| ___Director | ___ |
| ___Mr. Tolson | ___ |
| ___Mr. Nathan | ___ |
| ___Mr. E. Tamm | ___ |
| ___Mr. Clegg | ___ |
| ___Mr. Glavin | ___ |
| ___Miss Gandy | ___ |
| ___Mr. Coffey | ___ |
| ___Mr. Crowl | ___ |
| ___Mr. Foxworth | ___Chief Clerk |
| ___Mr. Nichols | ___Ident Div. |
| ___Mr. Tracy | ___Laboratory |
| ___Mr. Belmont | ___Mechanical Sect. |
| ___M_____ | ✓ Div. of Records. Dept |
| ___See Me | ___Note and Return |
| ___Phone Me | ___For Action |

Pls stamp mailed & return

Ag Cars

J.B.I. files.

b7C

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

JEL:MP

May 12, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM

In accordance with your request, I called [redacted] of the State Department and explained to him that we desired to interview [redacted] who was at one time assigned to the United States Legation at Munich. b7C

[redacted] advised, after a check of his records, that [redacted] had sailed on the SS MANHATTAN from Havre, France, on May 7, 1939, and could be reached upon arrival at the United States Dispatch Office located at 45 Broadway, New York City.

It is recalled that [redacted] is to be interviewed in order to vouch for the integrity of Informant Reinhold Spitz as to his allegations concerning the criminal record of Fritz Kuhn.

The information obtained from [redacted] was transmitted to [redacted] as has been outlined in a memorandum to you.

Respectfully, b7C

[redacted]

RECORDED & INDEXED 61-7594-23

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 66-2542-31

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**
**United States Department of Justice**
**Washington, D. C.**

KRM:CJ

May 23, 1939

Time - 1:35 P. M.
(5/22/39)

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM.

At this time Special Agent [redacted] called from New York, advising that he has now obtained the material from [redacted] with reference to the possible denaturalization of Fritz Kuhn. [redacted] has prepared the material in memorandum form in two columns. The column on the left contains quotations printed in the German language in Germany and pertains to Germans in the United States; while the column on the right contains quotations from the Deutscher Weckruf und Beobachter, the official organ of the German-American Bund, published in the United States. The quotations in the column on the right indicate compliance with the instructions issued from Germany.

This memorandum is prepared in German and will have to be translated by the translator of the New York office, [redacted] said that [redacted] would charge $35.00 for this translation. While [redacted] was on the phone I telephonically communicated with you and was advised that it would be appropriate for [redacted] to pay [redacted] the sum of $35.00 for his services in this connection. I accordingly advised [redacted] said that this would be handled immediately and would be forwarded to the Bureau in the next couple of days.

b7C
b7D

[redacted] said that [redacted] has in his own personal library the German books from which quotations are taken. I took this occasion to point out to [redacted] that in every instance when the Bureau authorizes him to obtain information from [redacted] the latter should always specify the exact source in detail from which he takes his quotations. I pointed out that quotations are absolutely of no value to the Bureau unless they can be shown to be authentic.

RECORDED

Respectfully,

[redacted]

100-17594-24

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAY 25 1939
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TAMM

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R&b MAY 22 1961

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

# Kuhn Refuses Immunity Waiver

NEW YORK, May 24 (U.P.). Fritz Kuhn, leader of the German-American Bund, today refused to sign a waiver of immunity to appear before the New York county grand jury after announcing less than an hour previously that he would do so. The leader conferred with Assistant District Attorney Sewell T. Tyng for 40 minutes.

INDEXED

NOT RECORDED

61-7594-24X

WASHINGTON TIMES-HERALD

MAY 25 1942

# Accounts of Kuhn Seized by Dewey In Bund Theft Hunt

## $1,380 Disappeared During "Raid," Chief Of 5 Groups Charges

That an investigation is now being carried on by the District Attorney's office into "alleged grand larceny in substantial amounts" in Fritz Kuhn's German-American Bund and four other groups "all understood to be Nazi organizations at the same address" became known today.

The inquiry was revealed by Paul E. Lockwood, executive assistant to District Attorney Dewey, after Mr. Kuhn angrily telephoned him yesterday to charge that $1,380 in cash had disappeared from his office at 178 E. 85th St. during a "raid" by the District Attorney's men a week ago yesterday. Mr. Kuhn tried to talk to District Attorney Dewey and was told to call at the office today if he wished to discuss the seizure.

**Organizations Involved.**

The organizations whose books and papers were seized on subpoena were the A. V. Publishing Corp., the German-American Settlement League, Inc.; the German-American Business League, Inc.; the Bund, and the German-American Front, Inc.

Prior to his telephone talk with Mr. Lockwood Mr. Kuhn said that "about a dozen men, describing themselves as representatives of the District Attorney's office, forced entrance to my office and took important papers, filed, bank books, canceled checks and practically everything away with them."

In that statement Mr. Kuhn, according to the District Attorney's office, was said to have declared that $1,800 in cash had disappeared. In his later talk with Mr. Lockwood the sum mentioned was $1,380.

Mr. Kuhn said that James Wheeler Hill, secretary of the Bund, was in the office at the time of the "raid" and was "pushedq aside and overpowered by men who broke in like murderers, like holdup men."

Mr. Kuhn said he discovered this state of affairs on his return from California yesterday.

A statement issued by Mr. Lockwood last night declared that Mr. Kuhn "returned to New York City a week ago. His statement would appear to be a sudden after thought in an attemt to exlapin the loss of part of the funds, the absence of which is under investigation. Although he has been in the city a week he has made no statement until this afternoon, immediately following the questioning of Hill at this office about the funds."

**Police Officer Present.**

Mr. Lockwood asserted that when the books were subpoenaed on May 2, "an accountant attached to this office and a police officer of the City of New York were present. The books were subpoenaed in the course of an investigation of certain alleged grand larceny in substantial amounts.

"James Wheeler Hill, secretary of the Bund, was present at the time the subpoenas were served. He received and agreed to an authenticated receipt for the documents delivered. No office was broken into. Hill made no objection to compliance with the lawfully served subpoenas."

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
MAY 10 1939
NEW YORK OFFICE
ROUTE:
FILE

Clipping from
NEW YORK WORLD-TELEGRAM
DATE: MAY 10 1939

(2)

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION

# Mayor Halts Issuance of Passports to Kuhn And Two Bund Aides After One Slips Away

After the discovery that one of the German-American Bund members under investigation by the city already had sailed quietly for Germany, Mayor La Guardia telegraphed yesterday to Cordell Hull, Secretary of State, asking him to withhold approval of the passport applications of Fritz Kuhn, bund leader, and two other members of the organization. Secretary Hull announced in Washington that the Mayor's request had been granted.

The Mayor's action came after a report on the progress of the city's inquiry was made to him at the World's Fair City Hall by William B. Herlands, Commissioner of Investigation. Mr. Herlands, who has been checking the bund's payments of city sales taxes on its uniforms and publications, told the Mayor that Karl Nicolay, Brooklyn bund leader, had sailed for Germany about April 6. He departed before completion of the city investigation and Mr. Herlands learned that Kuhn and his two other associates had applied for passports three weeks ago.

In addition to Kuhn, according to the Mayor, the bund members who planned to leave the country are Fritz Schwiering of 21 Scribner Avenue, New Brighton, S. I., and Gerhard Wilhelm Kunze of 92-39 Lamont Avenue, Elmhurst, Queens. Schwiering is business manager of the A. Z. Publishing Corporation, official publishers of the bund's literature, and Kunze is "director of public relations and enlightenments."

Mr. Herlands began his investigation of the bund and its tax payments to the city Feb. 28, shortly after the controversial Nazi mass meeting was held in Madison Square Garden.

In his message to Secretary Hull the Mayor declared that the three bund members were planning to leave the country before the end of Mr. Herland's inquiry. He said that the investigation should be completed within a few days and asked the State Department to keep the passport applications in abeyance until the sales tax inquiry had been finished.

Mr. Kunze said last night his passport was to expire last March and he applied for a renewal to save $5 on fees. He answered reports that pressure had been brought to speed issuance of the passports by saying he has not yet received his and therefore had been "occasionally inquiring" why it was being held up.

Mr. Kunze assumed that Mr. Kuhn and Mr. Schwiering had merely applied for renewals, too, although he was not sure. He said none of them has any plans for leaving the country.

"These are more of the same tricks we're getting used to," said Mr. Kunze. "We're not worried by things like that."

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
MAY 13 1939
NEW YORK OFFICE
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3

CLIPPING FORM
NEW YORK TIMES.
DATE. MAY 13 1939
FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

# Mayor Blocks Kuhn Move to Leave U. S.

Passport applications by Fritz Kuhn, leader of the German-American Bund, and two of his lieutenants, have been held up by the State Department in Washington, it was learned here last night, after it had been announced that Mayor LaGuardia had telegraphed Secretary Hull to defer validation of the documents.

*Fritz Kuhn (left), whose passport application is being held up by State Department, is shown with Brooklyn Bund Leader, Karl Nicolai, who it is said, sailed last month before men from Comm. Herlands could subpeona him.*

The State Department indicated it was in complete accord with the Mayor's desire and that the application will be pigeon-holed until the Federal Government is sure that no official agency urgently requires Kuhn's continued presence in the country.

At present, one branch of the Federal Government and two branches of the city government are probing the Bund.

Kuhn and the others, Fritz Schwiering and Gerhard Kunze, are wanted in this jurisdiction until Commissioner of Investigation Herlands completes his checkup

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
MAY 13 1939
NEW YORK OFFICE
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NEW YORK DAILY MIRROR

DATE. MAY 13 1939

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

~~and the~~ Bund and its officers. He is investigating a reported failure to pay the city sales tax.

Schwiering's business address is the A. Z. Publishing Corp., which puts out the official Bund bulletin. Kunze is the director of public relations and public enlightment of the Bund.

It was said the passport applications were filed after the Herlands investigation started. The Mayor pointed out in his wire that, while men from the Commissioner's office were trying to subpoena Karl Nicolai, leader of the Brooklyn Bund, he sailed on April 6.

District Attorney Dewey's office is also interested in Bund finances. Two days ago, Dewey revealed he had subpoenaed records in an investigation of "certain alleged grand larcenies in substantial amounts."

The Department of Investigation has been holding hearings on the Bund's reported failure to pay taxes, chiefly on the tickets sold for its meeting at Madison Square Garden two months ago.

The Dewey office announced its interest after Kuhn charged its agents had broken into his office and taken $1,380 while he was in California.

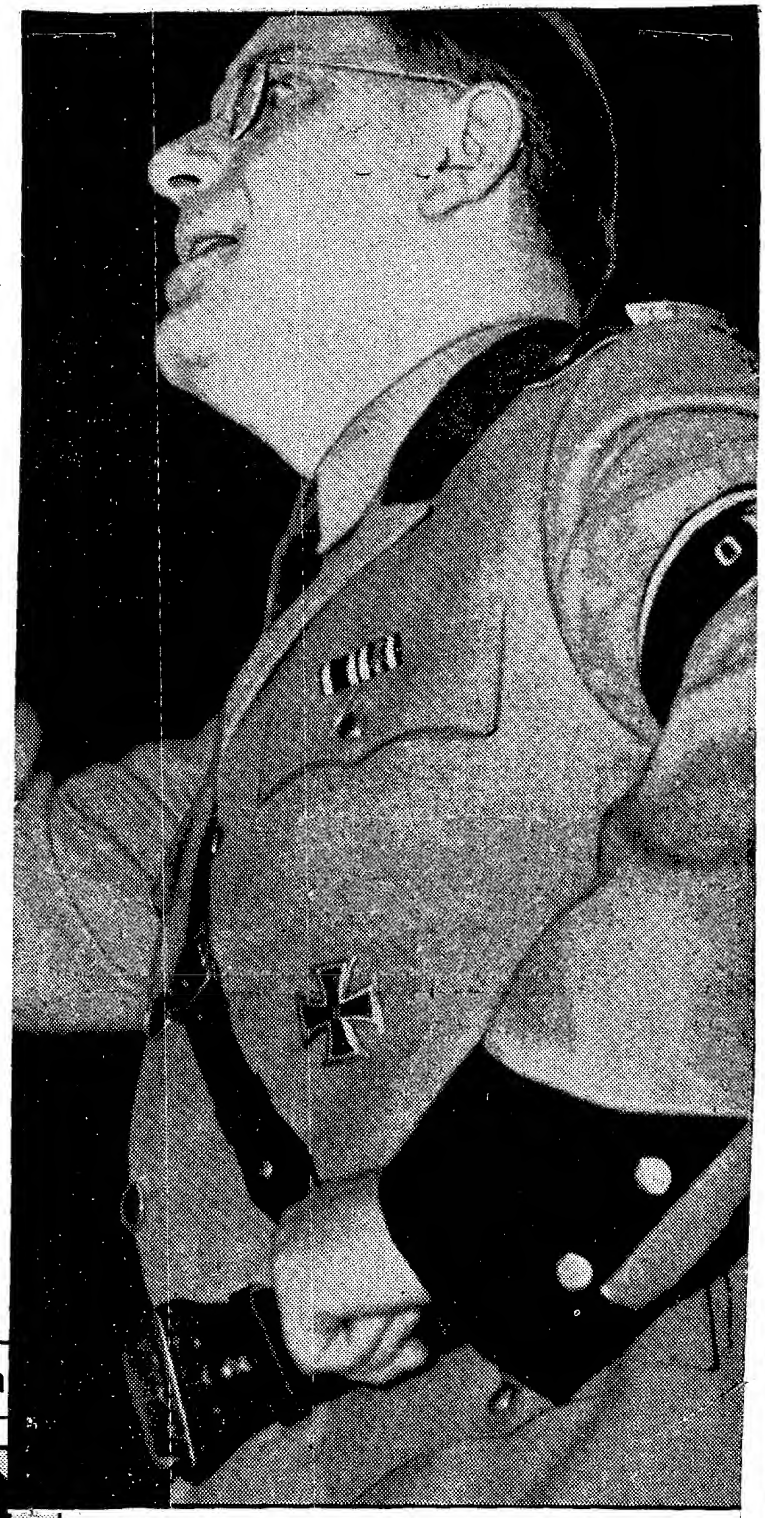
Kuhn has appeared as a witness before a number of committees during the past two years.

The best information available last night as to Kuhn's whereabouts was obtained from the German-American Bund at 178 E. 85th St.

"It is utterly impossible to get in touch with Mr. Kuhn," said an informant, introduced as "Mr. Kunzler — never mind the first name."

According to Mr. Kunzler:

"Fritz Kuhn has no intention of going away. The passport was just sent in for renewal, as is common. We are paying no attention to the action of the Mayor. It is just another of his attempts to harass Mr. Kuhn. We're quite used to that. Good day."



(AP Photo)

**Bund-uniformed Fritz Kuhn wants a passport from the U. S. But Mayor LaGuardia asks that it be withheld because he wants the matter of sales tax from Kuhn's Bund uniforms settled first.**

## They Asked to Leave With Kuhn

(AP Photo)

*Secretary of State Hull's unwillingness to issue passport to Fritz Kuhn extends also to the Bund Leader's aides, Frederick Schwiering (left) and Gerhard Kunze (right), shown with Max Rapp, vice president of the German-American Business League, Inc.*

# ~~Kuhn~~ Passport To Be Held Up

*By the Associated Press.*

WASHINGTON, May 13.—Applications for passports for Fritz Kuhn, leader of the German American Bund, and two associates have been held up by the State Department since early March, it was disclosed today, because of an investigation of the affairs of the three men by New York City authorities. The two associates are Fritz Schwiering and Gerald Wilhelm Kunze.

Mayor La Guardia of New York telegraphed Secretary Hull yesterday asking that issuance of passports be held up until the investigation is completed. The State Department, it was learned, will comply with Mayor La Guardia's request.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
MAY 13 1939
NEW YORK OFFICE
ROUTED TO: FILE

Clipping from
NEW YORK WORLD-TELEGRAM

DATE: MAY 13 1939

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION

# Herlands Cites Kuhn, 3 Aides in Tax Probe

Fritz Kuhn, leader of the German-American Bund, and at least three of his aides, were charged with sales tax irregularities in a report submitted today by Commissioner of Investigations William B. Herlands to Mayor LaGuardia.

The full text of the report, delivered to the Mayor "on the run" as he dashed from the United States Conference of Mayors at the Waldorf to the World's Fair to participate in the opening of the Russian Pavilion, was not immediately available.

**HELD SHORT IN PAYMENTS.**

It was learned, however, that the Bund heads, whose applications for passports to Germany recently were held up by the State Department at the Mayor's request, are accused of failure to make full sales tax payments on the sale of tickets to Bund affairs.

Herlands declined to make public the names of others cited with Kuhn until the Mayor had studied the report.

In his request to Secretary of State Hull to delay passport applications, the Mayor included the names of Fritz Schwiering, publisher of the Bund's literature, and Wilhelm Kunze, publicity director of the organization.

Karl Nicolay, leader of the Brooklyn Bund, sailed for Germany a month ago.

F. B. I.
MAY 17 1939
N. Y.
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Clipping from
NEW YORK EVENING JOURNAL-AMERICAN
DATE: MAY 17 1939
FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION

# DEWEY STUDYING 40 BUND CHARGES ON MAYOR'S PLEA

## Misdeameanors Cited in Tax Evasion Complaint Carry Prison Penalties

Fritz Kuhn and his German-American Bund became a potential Dewey target today as relief tax evasion charges, prepared by order of Mayor LaGuardia, were studied at the District Attorney's office.

There are more than forty charges in a forty-two page report apparently designed as ground work for destruction of the Bund. District Attorney Dewey received the report last night, with a request that proper criminal prosecution of Kuhn and his henchmen be undertaken.

Each violation cited represents a misdemeanor, punishable by three to six months in prison.

**Can't Find Records**

Commissioner of Investigation William B. Herlands, who directed the investigation resulting in the chargec, stressed the fact that no records, either of Bund membership or expenses, could be found.

"They (Kuhn and his associates) have failed to produce any records of the Bund," Herlands said, "and our accountants have not had the advantage of examining any book or other documentary evidence pertaining to the bund.

"Membership records would have been of direct assistance to us in determining the extent of the sale and distribution of uniforms, pamphlets, books, swastika emblems and similar articles.

"Kuhn and his associates have, in our opinion, contumaciously denied the present existence of any such records."

**Sequel of Garden Rally**

The Herlands inquiry was launched by request of the Mayor shortly after the Washington Birthday mass meeting of the Bund at Madison Square Garden. The Mayor was criticized for permitting the meeting, an out-and-out Nazi rally, and he answered that free speech applied to every one.

The Herlands report disclosed that the German-American Bund and its affiliates constitute a one-man organization headed by Kuhn, with offices in a two-room suite at 178 East Eighty-fifth Street.

Kuhn was named as president of the Bund, president of the German-American Business League, president of the A. V. Publishing Company and president of the German-American Front. The league described itself as an "information service between the United States and Germany," although it obviously was intended to wine trade for merchants sympathetic to the Bund.

**Kept on Scraps of Paper**

Records of the league were kept on scraps of paper and paper bags, which were destroyed, said Herlands, so no information on its financial activities could be obtained.

Furthermore, said Herlands, Kuhn has never made a financial accounting to Bund members. Despite the handicap of lack of records, Herlands men said they found sufficient evidence to make more than forty charges of failing to comply with provisions of the sales tax law.

Ten evasions of the emergency relief tax laws were listed, involving $871 in taxes and penalties. The organization was accused of failing to file sales tax returns for various periods, failing to register as a vendor under the sales tax law, filing a false business tax return, failing to file personal property tax returns and failing to keep proper records under the sales tax law.

Those named in addition to Kuhn are Max Rapp, treasurer of the German-American Business League; William Leudtke, secretary of the league; Richard Mettin, treasurer of the A. V. Publishing Company; James Wheeler-Hill, national secretary of the Bund and secretary of the publishing firm; Max Buchte, tailor who made Bund uniforms; Karl Kienzler, president of Kienzler and Schimpf, Inc.; Fred Hackl, president of the Hackl Press, Inc.

**One of Accused Is Dead**

Mettin, who was thirty-nine, died early Tuesday at St. Vincent's Hospital, West New Brighton, S. I. He had been in the United States about seven years.

Since start of the Herlands' inquiry, Karl Nicholai, of 267 St. Nicholas Avenue, Brooklyn Bund leader, and Fritz Schweierng, another Bund leader, have left this country. Schweiering left without a passport.

Nicholai's departure caused the Mayor to ask Secretary of State Hull to withhold approval of passport applications of Kuhn and others. This was done.

F. B. I.
MAY 18 1939
N. Y. C.
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FILE

Clipping from
NEW YORK POST

DATE: MAY 18 1939

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

# Mayor Asks Jail for Kuhn And 6 Aids

By John Crosson and Warren Hall.

**Mayor LaGuardia last night demanded the arrest within twenty-four hours of Fritz Kuhn, German-American Bund leader, and six of Kuhn's principal colleagues. Instructions were also issued for the apprehension of a seventh associate, but this order was rescinded when it was learned he had died of blood poisoning Monday. The accused Bund officials, including Kuhn, are charged with city tax frauds and other violations punishable by prison terms up to six years and fines totaling $6,000.**

LaGuardia acted after Commissioner of Investigation William B. Herlands had submitted to him a report indicating records of the Bund had been destroyed to thwart investigation by the city.

Fritz Kuhn
*His arrest expected.*

Herlands' report suggested that criminal contempt proceedings be instituted, and implied that Kuhn's handling of the Bund's own financial affairs was not entirely above suspicion.

**No Explanation of Funds.**

In view of the manner in which records were kept and because there has been no explanation of the disbursement of Bund funds, Herlands said that "we believe it would be manifestly a matter of considerable interest to the District Attorney to ascertain whether there has been any improper diversion or embezzlement of funds of the German-American Bund and its affiliates."

The 42-page Herlands report, which had been discussed earlier in the day at a conference with the Mayor and City Treasurer Alermindo Portfolio, was formally presented to LaGuardia at 5 P. M. at the Summer City Hall.

The Mayor promptly sent a message to District Attorney Dewey submitting the facts set forth "for such prosecutive action as you may deem proper."

**Expects Immediate Arrests.**

Herlands said he had recommended immediate action and expected quick arrest of the individual defendants. Dewey was expected to present the evidnece to a grand jury at once.

Under the city tax laws, the filing of a fraudulent tax return is a misdemeanor punishable by $1,000 fine or not more than one year in the county penitentiary, or both. Cash penalties may also be collected on the unpaid taxes.

Kuhn and his associates and four corporations are charged with five other misdemeanors—failing to file sales tax returns, failing to register as vendors, failing to keep records to compute a sales tax, failing to file business tax returns and failing to file personal property tax returns.

Besides Kuhn, the individuals named are James Wheeler Hill, national secretary of the Bund; Max Rapp and William Leudtke, treasurer and secretary of the German-American Business League; Max Buckte, manufacturer of Bund uniforms; Karl Kienzler, officer of a company which imports swastika emblems, and Fred Hackl, head of a company which handles the Bund's printing.

The seventh colleague mentioned was Richard Mettin, treasurer of the A. V. Publishing Co., which issues the Bund's official organ. The fact that Mettin died of blood poisoning Monday in St. Vincent's Hospital, Stapleton, S. I., was not learned until several hours after the Mayor's instructions for his arrest were announced.

Services for Mettin, who lived at 29 Norwood Ave., Stapleton, will be held today in the Walter B. Cooke Undertaking Parlors at 98 Beach St., Stapleton.

The corporations named are the German-American Business League of 178 E. 85th St.; the A. V. Publishing Co. of the same address; Kienzler & Schimpf, Inc., 130 W. 42d St., importing firm for swastika emblems; and the Hackl Press, Inc., 1554 Third Ave.

Kuhn, at the office of the Bund at 178 E. 85th St., insisted he and his associates were "not running away from anything."

**Fails to Furnish Lists.**

Herlands' report said the investigation had been "greatly interfered with and obstructed by the failure of Kuhn and other Bund officials to produce membership lists and a number of other records.

"Membership reports of the Bund would have been of direct assistance to us in determining the extent of the sale and distribution of uniforms, pamphlets, books, swastika emblems and similar articles," the report declared. "Membership records would have been of primary importance in ascertaining the circulation and income of the publishing corporation. Kuhn and his associates have, in our opinion, contumaciously denied the present existence of such records."

F. B. I.
MAY 18 1939
N. Y. C.
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Clipping from
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

DATE: MAY 18 39

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

# Bund Tax Evasion Charged; Mayor Asks Dewey to Act

## Prosecution of Kuhn and 7 Aides Is Urged By Herlands on Forty Accusations—4 Groups Linked to Nazi Leader

Mayor La Guardia laid last night the groundwork that may lead to the destruction of the German-American Bund in this city when he sent copies of a forty-two-page report listing more than forty violations of the relief tax laws to District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey with a request that criminal prosecution be undertaken, where proper, against Fritz Kuhn, bund leader, and his associates.

Each violation charged in the Mayor's list constitutes a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment from six months to three years.

William B. Herlands, Commissioner of Investigation, gave his report to the Mayor at the World's Fair last evening, after an investigation of the bund and its affairs that began soon after the Washington's Birthday mass meeting of the bund in Madison Square Garden. Criticized for permitting the meeting, the Mayor said at the time that democracy meant the free expression of any school of political thought. However, immediately after the meeting he directed Mr. Herlands to ascertain whether bund officials had conformed with the city relief tax laws.

In his letter to Mr. Dewey the Mayor said:

"I transmit herewith a report and affidavits of Commissioner of Investigation William B. Herlands concerning eight individuals and four corporations.

"The facts set forth in the enclosed report were developed in the course of a city tax investigation on the German-American Bund and related groups and concerns. These facts are submitted to you for such prosecutive action against the said eight individuals and four corporations as you may deem appropriate."

Abraham M. Bloch, Mr. Herlands's chief law assistant, delivered the report to Mr. Dewey last night. Though none of the bund members is now under subpoena, Mr. Herlands believes they will not attempt to leave the country.

He holds that belief despite his discovery that Fritz Schweiering of 21 Scribner Avenue, New Brighton, S. I., sailed for Germany without a passport on the liner Hamburg on May 3. Schweiering was one of the bund leaders mentioned by the Mayor last week when he asked the State Department to withhold approval of passport applications for three individuals.

The Herlands investigation revealed that the German-American Bund and its affiliates were a one-man organization dominated by Kuhn, which conducted activities from a two-room suite at 178 East Eighty-fifth Street, one of the poorer sections of Yorkville. Kuhn, a German lieutenant during the war, was decorated three times for his exploits against Allied troops.

Leaving no doubt that Kuhn was its chief target, the report named him as president of the bund, president of the German American Business League, president of the A. V. Publishing Company, and president of the German American Front. The report said the German American Business League's charter defined one of its activities as the conduct of "an information service between the United States and Germany," though its ostensible object was to promote business for merchants sympathetic with the aims of the bund.

Though thousands of application forms for the bund have been printed, Mr. Herlands told the Mayor, Kuhn professed inability to produce a membership list.

"In fact," he said, "they have failed to produce any records of the bund, and our accountants have not had the advantage of examining any book or other documentary evidence pertaining to the bund. Membership records would have been of direct assistance to us in determining the extent of the sale and distribution of uniforms, pamphlets, books, swastika emblems and similar articles. Kuhn and his associates have, in our opinion, contumaciously denied the present existence of any such records."

### Hold Violations Established

Similarly, Mr. Herlands said, the records of the German American Business League were kept on scraps of paper and paper bags, which were destroyed, with the result that the investigators could not trace its financial activities. Despite the difficulties, the investigators said they had been able to establish the forty-odd violations beyond question.

Mr. Herlands pointed out that Kuhn had never made a financial accounting of any kind to the bund members.

Detailing the alleged violations of law committed by the bund and its officers, Mr. Herlands listed ten evasions of the emergency relief tax laws involving $871 in taxes and penalties. The organization was accused of failure to file sales tax returns for various tax periods, of having failed to register as a vendor under the Sales Tax Law, of having filed a false business tax return, of having failed to file personal property tax returns and of failure to keep proper records under the Sales Tax Law.

F. B. I.
MAY 18 1939
N. Y. C.
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CLIPPING FORM
NEW YORK TIMES.
DATE. MAY 18
FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

In addition to Kuhn, the persons named in the report are Max Rapp, treasurer of the German-American Business League; William Leudtke, secretary of the league; Richard Mettin, treasurer of the A. V. Publishing Company; James Wheeler-Hill, national secretary of the bund and secretary of the publishing concern; Max Buchte, tailor who made bund uniforms; Karl Kienzler, president of Kienzler & Schimpf, Inc.; Fred Hackl, president of the Hackl Press, Inc.

Mettin, who was 39 years old, died early Tuesday at St. Vincent's Hospital, West New Brighton, S. I. He had entered the hospital about a week earlier, from his home, 29 Norwood Avenue, Clifton, S. I. He had been in the United States about seven years, it was said last night.

The four corporations listed are the Hackl Press; Keinzler & Schimpf, importers of swastika jewelry; the A. V. Publishing Company and the German-American Business League. All four were in the business of printing bund literature or supplying bund members with uniforms and paraphernalia.

**Brooklyn Leader in Germany**

Since the Herlands inquiry began on Feb. 28, Karl Nicolay of 267 St. Nicholas Avenue, Brooklyn Bund leader, sailed for Germany after learning that subpoenas were ready for service on him. Schweiering's departure without a passport was not discovered until yesterday. If he returns he will face trouble with the Federal immigration inspectors.

Aside from Kuhn, the principal figure in the pro-Nazi organizations, the others listed in the report appeared to the investigators as small figures. The A. V. Publishing Corporation, with Kuhn at its head, was accused of ten violations of the emergency tax laws involving an estimated $50. Despite the small amount, each violation if proved constitutes a misdemeanor punishable by jail sentences of six months to three years.

Max Buchte, the bund tailor, who lives at 1,618 Jefferson Avenue, Brooklyn, and has his shop at 961 Wyckoff Avenue, Queens, was accused of five tax violations involving $897 with penalties. Kienzler & Schimpf, with Karl Kienzler as president, was accused of three violations involving $50. The Hackl Press and Fred Hackl as president were accused of sixteen tax evasions with a tax penalty liability totaling $2,586, the largest amount claimed by the city from any of those investigated.

**Groups' Affairs Interwoven**

Though Kuhn contended that the various organizations were distinct, Mr. Herlands declared in his affidavit that all had essentially the same objects and that their financial affairs were interwoven. He declared the German-American Business League had failed to file sales tax returns on all occasions except one, adding that the single exception occurred when a city inspector had checked sales and the tax payments.

In the case of the A. V. Publishing Company, Mr. Herlands said it was the publisher of Deutscher Weckruf und Beobachter, official organ of the bund, as well as publisher of various pamphlets and year-books used by bund members.

After signing the Herlands report for transmission to Mr. Dewey, Mayor La Guardia said he would let the report speak for itself.

Kuhn served on the French front during four years of the war and emerged as a first lieutenant. He holds the Iron Cross, First and Second Class; the Bavarian Cross and the Wurzburg Cross.

F. B. I.
MAY 18 1939
N. Y. C.
FILE

CLIPPING FORM
NEW YORK TIMES.

DATE. MAY 18 1939
FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

# Dewey Gets Criminal Charges Against Kuhn

Fritz Kuhn, "fuehrer" of the German-American Bund, seven other individuals and four corporations were accused of criminal offenses yesterday in a report submitted by Commissioner of Investigation William B. Herlands.

Arrest of Kuhn and six others appeared imminent last night as Mayor LaGuardia turned the report over to District Attorney Dewey "For such prosecution as deemed appropriate."

The eighth man, Richard Mettin, died of blood poisoning Monday, the Daily Mirror learned late last night.

Herlands' report was the result of a sales tax investigation started Feb. 28, but Kuhn is charged with more than sales tax evasions. Herlands, calling Kuhn the "financial dictator" of the Bund and allied organizations, said he filed a false business tax return, failed to file a personal property tax return, and failed to co-operate with the investigators by producing certain records.

(Mirror)

*Fritz Kuhn, German-American Bund chief, is shown (right) as he conversed with James Wheeler Hill (left), national secretary of the Bund. Both men are among those accused of criminal offenses.*

F. B. I.
MAY 18 1939
N. Y. C.
FILE

CLIPPING FROM

NEW YORK DAILY MIRROR TO

DATE. MAY 18 1939

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

Herlands also stated that Fritz Schwiering, business manager of the A. V. Publishing Corp., one of the accused corporations, fled the country without a passport on May 3, sailing on the S. S. Hamburg. Mr. Herlands said Schwiering was under investigation with the others in the sales tax inquiry.

The State Department last night notified Mayor LaGuardia that if Schwiering ever returns to the United States he will be prosecuted on the grounds of illegal departure.

Last Friday the Mayor asked the State Department to hold up the passport applications of Schwiering, Kuhn and another Bund leader, Gerhard Wilhelm Kunze. It was not known at that time that Schwiering had already sailed.

### *Those Accused*

The corporations named by Herlands are the German-American Business League and the A. V. Publishing Corp., both headed by Kuhn at 178 E. 85th St.; the Hackl Press, Inc., of 1554 Third Ave., alleged to have done printing for the Bund; and Kienzler & Schiempf, of 130 W. 42nd St., alleged to have supplied the Bund with swastikas, flags and other articles.

The alleged sales tax evasions were on uniforms, emblems and literature.

The presidents of the Hackl Press and the supply company were among the individuals named. The complete list of individuals follows:

Fritz Kuhn, of 33-42 73rd St., Jackson Heights, Queens, president of the German-American Bund, the German-American Business League and the A. V. Publishing Corp.

Max Rapp, of 1237 College Ave., the Bronx, treasurer of the Business League.

William Leudtke, of 120 Sampson St., Garfield, N. J., secretary and general manager of the Business League.

Richard Mettin, of 29 Norwood Ave., Staten Island, treasurer of the Bund and also of the A. V. Publishing Corp. (Nettin died Monday.)

James Wheeler Hill, of 326 E. 83rd St., secretary of the Bund and also of the A. V. Publishing Corp.

Max Buchte, of 1618 Jefferson Ave., Brooklyn, a custom tailor.

Karl Kienzler, president of Kienzler & Schiempf.

Fred Hackl, president of the Hackl Press, Inc.

The tailor, Buchte, is alleged to have supplied storm trooper uniforms worn by members of the Bund. Herlands said the tax liability against Buchte was $897.06, against the Hackl Press $2,986.31, the German-American Business League $871.03, the A. V. Publishing Corp. $50.80, and Kienzler & Schiempf $50.70.

The Commissioner complained that he had been greatly hampered in ascertaining the true financial set-up of the Bund and its kindred bodies because of the failure of Kuhn and others to produce membership lists and other documents, and also because of the fact that Kuhn has maintained "one-man control" over the finances and is the only man who really understands them.

Herlands mentioned possible contempt action against Kuhn in this regard. Subpoenas earlier were issued for Kuhn, Hill and their membership records and bank accounts, and District Attorney Dewey's men seized various records early this month. But Herlands revealed that even this seizure had failed to bare the desired facts.


CLIPPING FROM

NEW YORK DAILY MIRROR

DATE.

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

# Mayor and Dewey Vie for Kuhn Scalp

By William Rice and Gerald Duncan.

The matter of making life miserable for Fritz Kuhn, Fuehrer of men who like to wear bright buttons and Sam Browne belts and play at soldiering, yesterday turned into a tussle for glory between Mayor LaGuardia and District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey.

Prosecutor Dewey slapped the Mayor on the wrist by calling his sales tax charges small potatoes and summoned the Fuehrer before the Grand Jury to testify concerning "alleged substantial felonies."

Fritz Kuhn as he arrived at German-American Bund office at 172 E. 85th St., yesterday, where he waited all day to be arrested.

Kuhn, meanwhile, stuck out his chest and waited for arrest, which was demanded within twenty-four hours by LaGuardia on Wednesday night. Not to appear a shrinking violet in the sunlight of newsprint, Kuhn took some verbal pokes at both the Mayor and Commissioner of Investigation William B. Herlands, as well as Dewey.

**Gets John Doe Summons.**

Said Kuhn, a stickler for accuracy in public utterances:

"I'm not running away from the Jew Herlands and that little Red, LaGuardia."

At least he wasn't running. He waited all day in the barracks of the German-American Bund at 172 E. 85th St. for arrest, taking only twenty minutes out for lunch. He was there when a Dewey detective arrived at 4:30 P. M. with a subpoena requiring Kuhn's presence Monday before a John Doe investigation by Dewey's Grand Jury.

Snorted Kuhn:

"Here I've been waiting all day to be arrested and all they do is hand me a subpoena. And you can bet I'm the John Doe."

He probably was correct in his supposition, a John Doe inquiry being a device used by the Grand Jury to conceal the object of its investigation from a witness.

**Demanded Arrest of 7.**

Mayor LaGuardia had demanded the arrest of Kuhn and six of his subalterns in the German-American Bund, after a report from Commissioner Herlands charging six misdemeanors punishable by prison terms up to six years and fines totaling $6,000.

Dewey, with an informal "Dear Fiorello," told the Mayor by way of reply to his demand:

"I have your letter of May 17, enclosing the report of the Commissioner of Investigation, suggesting that certain misdemeanors have been committed by the German-American Bund and related corporations and individuals in failing to comply with local laws concerning the sales tax of the City of New York. It is also suggested that the books of the Bund might be examined.

"Books of the German-American Bund and related corporations were subpoenaed by my office on May 2 and have been in process of examination since that date. This was in the course of an investigation of certain alleged substantial felonies which my office has been conducting for the past several weeks.

"Accordingly, I have directed that the alleged misdemeanors be presented to the Grand Jury, in conjunction with the major investigation now in progress."

Dewey closed with a "sincerely yours."

The Mayor had no immediate retort. Kuhn, however, had plenty to say.

"I am thinking of writing to the Governor and asking Dewey's removal because he broke the law," he announced.

Dewey was not advised immediately, and there was no telling how alarmed he might be.

F. B. I.
MAY 19 1939
N. Y. C.
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Clipping from
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
DATE: MAY 19 1939

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

# DEWEY CALLS KUHN IN INQUIRY ON BUND

## Subpoenas Nazi Group Leader on Alleged Fund Shortage, Viewed as 'Felonies'

## PUTS CITY CHARGE NEXT

## Prosecutor Replies to Mayor That Tax Evasion Also Will Be Looked Into

Fritz Kuhn, German-American Bund leader, was served with a subpoena yesterday to appear next Monday morning before the New York County grand jury in the investigation District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey ordered more than a month ago into the bund and related corporations in connection with alleged shortages in the funds.

The subpoena was served on Kuhn in his office at 178 East Eighty-fifth Street, it was said, about the time District Attorney Dewey was making public a communication, replying to one from Mayor La Guardia the day before, in which the Mayor asked the prosecutor to investigate the books of Kuhn's concerns under the city's sales tax laws.

Mr. Dewey informed Mr. La Guardia that he had already taken before the grand jury the matter of the alleged shortages in the bund's funds, which he described as "alleged substantial felonies," and on receipt of the Mayor's communication had ordered that the sales tax matter also be laid before the grand jurors.

"Will you answer the subpoena on Monday?" Kuhn was asked.

"I shall," he replied instantly.

"Will you waive immunity in order to give your testimony?"

"I shall," Kuhn again replied with military terseness.

"Do you care to make any statement in connection with the service of the grand jury subpoena on you?"

"No," he said at first, but as an afterthought continued: "There was no need to serve a subpoena on me. I would have appeared before the grand jurors without a subpoena, had they asked me. This whole thing will end merely in a subpoena having been served on me. That's all it amounts to."

Mayor La Guardia sent his communication to Mr. Dewey Wednesday after receiving a report from Commissioner of Investigation William B. Herlands on his inquiry into the alleged failure of Kuhn and his associates in the Bund and its three so-called subsidiary corporations to comply with the city tax laws.

The Mayor asked Mr. Dewey to begin "prosecutive action" against Kuhn, the four corporations and seven men associated with Kuhn in them. Mr. Herlands had said in his report to the Mayor that a suspected total of $4,855 in tax liabilities and penalties had been uncovered.

### Dewey's Reply to Mayor

Mr. Dewey's letter to the Mayor follows:

Dear Fiorello:

I have your letter of May 17, enclosing the report of the Commissioner of Investigation suggesting that certain misdemeanors have been committed by the German-American Bund and related corporations and individuals, in failing to comply with local laws concerning the sales tax of the City of New York. It is also suggested that the books of the bund might be examined.

Books of the German-American Bund and related corporations were subpoenaed by my office on May 2 and have been in process of examination since that date. This was in the course of an investigation of certain alleged substantial felonies which my office has been conducting for the past several weeks.

Accordingly, I have directed that the alleged misdemeanors be also presented to the grand jury in conjunction with the major investigation now in progress.

Sincerely yours,
THOMAS E. DEWEY.

On May 2 attachés of the District Attorney's office, accompanied by a policeman, by direction of Paul Lockwood, executive assistant district attorney, seized the books of the four corporations in the East Eighty-fifth Street office and took them to Mr. Dewey's office. Kuhn a week later complained that the office was "raided" when he was on a trip and charged that $1,380 had been taken from his personal desk while the books were being seized.

He complained about the loss of the money over the telephone to Mr. Lockwood after he learned that James Wheeler Hill, one of his active lieutenants in the bund's affairs, had appeared at Mr. Dewey's office twice on invitation and had submitted to questioning by Assistant District Attorney Frank Severance.

Mr. Lockwood denied that any money had been taken from Kuhn's office when the books were seized. Two days later Kuhn, on Mr. Lockwood's invitation, appeared at the District Attorney's office for questioning, but at the end of two hours neither he nor Mr. Lockwood would reveal what had taken place.

F. B. I.
MAY 19 1939
N. Y. C.
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CLIPPING FORM
NEW YORK TIMES
MAY 19 1939
DATE.
FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

# Why So Secret?

In his report on the German-American Bund, which has been passed on to the District Attorney's office, Commissioner of Investigation William B. Herlands spoke of the same scarcity of records which retarded the Dies committee's digging into Nazi affairs last fall.

Mr. Herlands found that many financial transactions could not be traced because accounts were kept temporarily on scraps of paper in paper bags and then destroyed. Fritz Kuhn, the Bund leader, according to Mr. Herlands, never had made any financial accounting. Neither was there any list of membesr.

When the Dies committee called its Bund witnesses last summer it found almost no correspondence or other evidence. Just after that investigation was ordered Kuhn had sent letters to all Bund leaders and agents in the United States ordering them "to destroy at once" all evidence or correspondence which might link the Bund with the Nazi government bureaus in Germany.

Aside from such painstaking concealment being the most suspicious possible action, it must be admitted that the Bund has acted prudently. Its underground activities cannot be traced by ordinary methods because its trail is obliterated. That would make the perfect crime.

Commissioner Herlands and Mayor La Guardia are completely right and proper, however, in asking the prosecutor's office to look into the Bund regardless. American firms and individuals must pay taxes, keep records and render an accounting. The Bund proclaims itself the most American of all organizations, and there's no alien exemption due to it. It's time to discover what it is that the Bund is so anxious to conceal.

F. B. I.
MAY 19 1939
N. Y. C.
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Clipping from
NEW YORK WORLD-TELEGRAM
DATE MAY 19 1939
FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION

# Bund Waning, Legion Reports

*By the Associated Press.*

BUFFALO, May 19.—With the assertion that "Naziism and the Bund are extinct in Western New York," an American Legion official revealed today that 75 former members of the German-American Bund had invited Legion members to a picnic and dinner at their onetime "Bund Camp."

Paul Wansley, chairman of the Erie County American Legion Americanization Committee, said the picnic would take place June 3 at Camp Porterville, near East Aurora, where he said at one time "Bund activities drew as many as 400 enthusiasts on week-ends."

The former Bundsmen, Wamsley said, "have renounced the Bund, unforms and goosestep parades, and are devoting themselves to a study of 100 per cent Americanism."

F. B. I.

MAY 19 1939

N. Y. C.

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Clipping from
NEW YORK WORLD-TELEGRAM

DATE: MAY 19 1939

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION

# NATION 'WAKING UP,' BUND LEADER ASSERTS

## Kuhn, at Yaphank Nazi Camp, Sees Drive on Reds

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

YAPHANK, L. I., May 21.—The alleged plot to establish a fascist regime in this country, as revealed by the Dies committee is evidence that the nation is "waking up" to the fight the German-American Bund has been carrying on against communism, Fritz Kuhn, national leader of the bund, declared this afternoon at ceremonies marking the season's opening at Camp Siegfried, the Nazi recreation field here.

Referring to Dudley P. Gilbert and Major Gen. George Van Horn Moseley, retired, who were mentioned in testimony before the committee as active opponents of "subversive elements," Mr. Kuhn said "the big men of this country are now coming into the battle against communism."

Three thousand bund members and their friends, including 300 uniformed storm troopers, attended the exercises. The crowd booed when the World's Fair was mentioned by Wilhelm Kunzer, who referred to it as the "so-called World's Fair."

Mr. Kunzer, who is the national youth leader of the bund, denounced "so-called Americans" who took part in the dedication of the Soviet pavilion and "have the audacity to compare the Revolution of 1776 with the godless, atheistic overthrow in Russia in 1917."

Most of his speech was devoted to an appeal for funds to support bund activities. He said justice could not be obtained in this country "unless you have the money with which to fight for it."

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
MAY 22 1939
NEW YORK OFFICE
RECORDED | FILE

CLIPPING FROM
NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE

DATE MAY 22 1939

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION

# BUND LEADERS VISIT DEWEY

## Kuhn Questioned for About Half an Hour.

## LONG SESSION FADES OUT

## National Secretary Accompanies Him to Conference.

Fritz Kuhn, German-American Bund leader, whose possible detention on charges at the instance of Mayor LaGuardia and other city officials was vaguely rumored last week, appeared today at the office of District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey where he was questioned for about half an hour.

He was accompanied by James Wheeler-Hill, national secretary of the bund, and while the bund leader was reticent as to the subject matter of his examination he did say that he had come to Mr. Dewey's office voluntarily. He is already under subpœna from the prosecutor's office, as he stated in an interview several days ago. Both he and his companion were nattily attired in light gray suits and both seemed cheerful as they faced reporters, photographers and newsreel men at the entrance to the Criminal Courts Building.

Kuhn said in answer to questions that he had not communicated with District Attorney Dewey since he received his subpœna and that none of his aids had been subpœnaed. He was asked if he knew what was going to happen to him and he replied that he did not. The two men went at once to a sixth floor office where they were questioned by Assistant District Attorney Frank Severance. The prosecutor's office maintained silence on the errand. It was reported that the bund leader would be asked to sign a waiver of immunity as a preliminary to his appearance before the Grand Jury. When Mr. Dewey was asked about this the reply returned was "No comment." It was said that if Kuhn signed he would be immediately taken before the Grand Jury.

Kuhn had told reporters last week that he would waive immunity and testify willingly. After remaining in the office half an hour, however, Kuhn and Wheeler-Hill both left the building.

The subpœna which Kuhn received had been served on him in connection with District Attorney Dewey's investigation of alleged shortages in funds of the Bund and related corporations. It was said that Kuhn might also be requested to tell something of the business affairs of the Bund following the letter sent by Mayor LaGuardia to the prosecutor asking an investigation of possible failure of the various enterprises involved to pay the city sales taxes in full.

Commissioner of Investigation William B. Herlands was said to have reported to the Mayor last week that a suspected total of $4,855 in tax liabilities and penalties had been found in his investigation of the Bund affairs and kindred enterprises.

When Kuhn and the Bund secretary arrived it was said they might be questioned all day and surprise was expressed by court officials at their brief stay.

The German-American Bund opened Camp Siegfried, its summer camp, at Yaphank, L. I., yesterday with a parade and speech program, but no beer. Kuhn said a beer license had been obtained last Wednesday but that it was revoked on Friday, so the 10,000 visitors to the camp had to be content with soft drinks until it was learned that beer was to be had at a nearby inn.

In the speeches of Bund leaders there were the customary denunciations of "the Jewish-communist-atheist international." The Ordnungst Dienst guards' uniforms were said by Kuhn to be American uniforms and he called the attention of reporters to the absence of German flags. American and Bund flags were displayed, the latter being red and white with small swastikas at the top.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
MAY 22 1939
NEW YORK OFFICE
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CLIPPING FROM
NEW YORK SUN. MAY 22 1939
DATE

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION.

## DEWEY AIDE QUIZZES KUHN ON TAX EVASION.

Fritz Kuhn, accompanied by his aire, James Wheeler Hill, today appeared at the District Attorney's office in response to a subpoena. He was reported to have refused to sign a waver if immunity to appear before a Grand Jury in-investigating alleged sales tax evasions and suspected criminal offenses committed by officials of his organization. He left after 25 minutes' questioning by Assistant District Attorney Frank Severence.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
MAY 22 1939
NEW YORK FILE
ROUTED TO: FILE

Clipping from
NEW YORK EVENING JOURNAL-AMERICAN

DATE: MAY 22 1939

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION

# Wife's Letter Reveals Fritz Kuhn Romances

## Captured Heart of His Best Friend's Spouse, Bundsman's Mate Says

By ARTHUR MEFFORD

NEW YORK, May 31.—New evidence in possession of Federal and State authorities today pictures Fritz Kuhn as a random lover who tossed off the old for the new with abandon.

Among the conquests of the portly German-American Bund leader, indicted last week by District Attorney Dewey as "a common thief," according to a letter written by his own wife, Elsa, was his capture of the heart of his best friend's wife.

**Written Three Years Ago**

Written in German aboard the S. S. Bremen three years ago, while Mrs. Kuhn, herself active in Bund circles, was accompanying her husband on a visit to Germany to attend the Olympic games and report to Adolf Hitler, the document vividly sets forth her heartache.

(Name deleted to protect the man.)

"Dear Mr. R——: Once again I write you in good intention. All I want is to ask you to get your wife back and help me to wipe out this dirty matter. Imagine you, there are two children. Tomorrow, Walter will be nine years old.

"My husband has no money to support your wife besides. The whole branch of the Bund at Detroit stands behind me. There will be a great scandal. I wait for your immediate answer. My address, Munich, Walhalla Str. 42.

**"She Has Condemned Self"**

"I don't want any more excuses from your wife; she has condemned herself. Besides, people did not like the 'secretary' of the Bund's head in Detroit. These people are not so dumb.

"It was I who protected your wife in order to prevent any dirty talking. My husband had given me his word of honor that there would be only his family he cares for; that between him and Mrs. R— everything would be finished. He declared the same thing to his daughter Waltraut (then about 13), he was only in love with her mother.

MRS. FLORENCE CAMP
*Dewey charges bund's missing money was used to move her effects East.*

"This is the truth. Now act like a German man of honor on behalf of our movement. I wait for your immediate answer.

"ELSA KUHN."

Since this letter was written three years ago, Kuhn and his wife have split because of his hectic blonde, brunette and redhead troubles—the redhead being a Detroit woman named Erma, who broke with him after her 12-year-old son begged the Bund leader to marry her to avoid incipent disgrace.

**Kuhn Once Imprisoned**

Other records in possession of United States Attorney Cahill purport to show that Kuhn, then a German army petty officer, was imprisoned in Germany.

After serving four months in jail, Kuhn's brother, a Munich City magistrate, since become prosecuting attorney and a man of honor and influence, obtained his parole.

Kuhn, according to the official records, was given employment by a Jewish business man named Spitz, a lifelong friend of his family was again accused and to avoid further conflict with the law emigrated to Mexico. This was in 1923.

Three or four years later, Kuhn, according to the authorities, went to Detroit, where he won the sympathies of the German colony by his story of having been robbed of his $5,000 stock in a Mexico City jewelry store.

**Turned to Bund**

For a time Kuhn was active in the affairs of the Friends of Nature Club, a Detroit German Society not particularly friendly to the Nazi German government, but switched his affiliations to the bund when a member obtained for him a job as an X-ray plate developer in Ford Hospital.

The Federal authorities are particularly interested in the strapping bund leader's failure to reveal all the facts of his past to the Detroit Naturalization Bureau when he took out citizenship papers in 1934.

Federal agents are also investigating the disappearance of a bund-owned automobile which was borrowed by the usually jocular leader.

Kuhn, according to information given to authorities by Detroit bundsmen, took a leave of absence and drove the car to San Francisco, Los Angeles, Portland and Seattle.

**Returns Sans Car**

It was on this trip that Kuhn became acquainted with Mrs. Florence Camp, blond grass-widow of a once-rich California oil operator. It was alleged in Dewey's indictment of Kuhn last week that part of the $14,548 he is accused of stealing from bund funds was used to move Mrs. Camp's belongings here from Los Angeles and thence to Cleveland.

Kuhn, according to Detroit bundsmen, returned from the Western trip by train. Asked what he had done with the bund car, he was quoted:

"I had a very narrow escape. Driving along the Pacific Coast something went wrong with the steering gear and the car suddenly went over the cliff, falling hundreds of feet down on the rocks. It was completely demolished."

Several Detroit Bundsmen noticed Kuhn bore not a scratch and pointedly called this to his attention. They said they made inquiries and found the California, Oregon and Washington authorities had no record of such an accident.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Gavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

KRM

INDEXED

NOT RECORDED

61-7594-24X1

MAY 31 1939

WASHINGTON TIMES-HERALD

# WASHINGTON CITY NEWS SERVICE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

JUN 1 08 PM '39
RECEIVED
COMMUNICATIONS

NEW YORK--FRITZ KUHN WAS REFUSED PERMISSION TO EXAMINE THE MINUTES OF THE GRAND JURY WHICH INDICTED HIM ON GRAND LARCENY AND FORGERY CHARGES IN THE ALLEGED THEFT OF $14,548 OF THE BUND'S MONEY.

JUDGE CORNELIUS COLLINS ALSO DENIED KUHN'S ATTORNEY THE RETURN OF BOOKS AND RECORDS SEIZED AT BUND HEADQUARTERS AND REFUSED, AS AGAINST THE LAW, A REQUEST THAT THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE DISCLOSE THE NAMES OF WITNESSES.

KUHN ISSUED A PREPARED STATEMENT CHARGING THAT HE IS BEING PERSECUTED.

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JUN 3 3 35 PM '39

INDEXED

NOT RECORDED

61-7594-24X2

# WASHINGTON CITY NEWS SERVICE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

MAY 26 1 50 PM '39
RECEIVED
COMMUNICATIONS

NEW YORK--FRITZ KUHN WAS HELD IN $5,000 BAIL AFTER PLEADING NOT GUILTY TO ALL 12 COUNTS OF AN INDICTMENT CHARGING HIM WITH GRAND LARCENY AND FORGERY IN CONNECTION WITH ALLEGED SHORTAGES IN THE ORGANIZATION'S FUNDS.

KUHN WAS BROUGHT TO THE GENERAL SESSIONS COURT ROOM FROM POLICE HEADQUARTERS WHERE HE HAD BEEN PARADED IN THE BRIGHT LIGHTS OF THE ROUTINE LINEUP. HE APPEARED NERVOUS AND LACKED HIS USUAL BRAVADO.

JUDGE CORNELIUS F. COLLINS SAID THAT "$5,000 IS A VERY MODEST SUM" AND THAT HE WOULD HAVE SET BAIL HIGHER HAD THERE BEEN PROPOSALS FROM DISTRICT ATTORNEY THOMAS E. DEWEY'S OFFICE.

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NO. BROADCAST

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KRM:CJ

61-7594 -25

June 24, 1939

RECORDED

Special Agent in Charge
New York, New York

RE: FRITZ KUHN; PERJURY;
IMMIGRATION ACT;
NATURALIZATION ACT

b7C

Dear Sir:

With reference to your letter of May 8, 1939, wherein you refer to the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at New York City, May 8, 1939, concerning the above entitled matter, you are advised that copies of said report should be forwarded to the United States Attorney's office.

You are informed that the Bureau is presently conducting inquiries through the Department of State in an effort to obtain the criminal record of Fritz Kuhn at Munich, Germany.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson
Mr. N[illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. Fo[illegible]
Mr. G[illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. L[illegible]
Mr. McIntire
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

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I discharged him. I was about to make a complaint against him for the theft to the Police, but I was prevailed upon not to do so by the pleading and overtures of Fritz Kuhn's father, and for that reason I did not press my complaint for larceny against Fritz Kuhn.

I am now a Refugee with my wife and child. I have read in the newspapers that Joseph Goldstein, former City Magistrate of the City of New York, has made application to the Department of Labor, Commissioner of Immigration at Washington, D. C. to cancel and vacate the certificate of citizenship issued to the said Fritz Kuhn. I feel that it is my duty, as one who is about to become an American Citizen, to state the facts that I have herein stated, so that the United States Government officials could investigate the truth of those statements, and demonstrate that Fritz Kuhn became a Citizen of the United States upon the false and fraudulent representations that he was a person of good character and that he had never been convicted of any crime. I believe that by imparting this information and by making this affidavit that I am performing the duty which would develve upon me as a future Citizen of the United States of America, and to the end that the Officials of the United States of America should be able to look into this matter, and if it is found true, to bring the matter to the attention of the United States Court which issued to Fritz Kuhn his citizen ship papers, and so that proceedings may be taken for the cancellation thereof.

. . . . . .

Sworn to before me this 16th
day of February, 1939.

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The carbon copy of the affidavit from which the above is quoted should be returned to [redacted]

UNENVELOPED LEAD

THE NEW YORK OFFICE

Will interview REINHOLD SPITZ for any additional information which he may have and to ascertain whether the information submitted can be corroborated from any other source, after which the matter will be submitted to the U. S. Attorney, Southern District of N.Y. for his opinion as to whether the matter constitutes a violation of any Federal statute.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK CITY

3/30

N.Y. FILE NO. 74-130 LP

| REPORT MADE AT | DATE WHEN MADE | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY |
|---|---|---|---|
| NEW YORK CITY | 5/8/39 | 4/14/39 | [redacted] |

| TITLE | CHARACTER OF CASE |
|---|---|
| FRITZ KUHN | PERJURY; IMMIGRATION ACT; NATURALIZATION ACT |

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SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

REINHOLD SPITZ, a German refugee, stated that FRITZ KUHN had criminal record Munich, Germany, growing out of a larceny charge. [redacted] of U. S. Atty, SDNY, and of Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League reported this information and suggested possible violation on the part of FRITZ KUHN if he denied such criminal record when applying for admission to the U. S. and for naturalization.

P

DETAILS:

On March 30, 1939 [redacted] of the office of the U. S. Attorney, Southern District of New York, called at this office with [redacted] of the Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League. They stated that [redacted] had been contacted by REINHOLD SPITZ, 475 Central Park West, telephone Academy 4-3325, who had informed [redacted] that he had known FRITZ KUHN, the present leader of the German-American Bund when he was a resident of Munich, Germany and that he knew FRITZ KUHN served six months in prison in Munich for petty larceny.

memo to cc page 7/10/39 [illegible]

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| APPROVED AND FORWARDED: | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dwight Brantley | | 7594 25 | JUN 16 1939 |

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5 Bureau

4 New York

MAY 9 1939

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 7—2034

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74-130

[redacted] stated it was the suggestion of JOHN T. CAHILL, U. S. Attorney, Southern District of New York, that REINHOLD SPITZ be interviewed to determine whether there was a violation of the Federal law involved in connection with this matter. SPITZ apparently had called on [redacted] of the Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League and had furnished to him information concerning the above matter and furnished information which was set out in the memorandum from [redacted] which reads as follows:

"To: [redacted]
From

This morning, A Mr. Reinhold Spitz, a former resident of Munich, Germany, visited the League, giving me the following information which I consider of the utmost importance.

Mr. Spitz informed me: he arrived in New York on December 27, 1937, as a regular immigrant. He submitted his immigration identification card, #2560413, proving that he arrived as a regular immigrant on that date. Mr. Spitz is a native of Austria, born February 13, 1873, and became a subject of the German Reich in 1896.

Mr. Spitz submitted a German-written document issued by the Imperial Bavarian Ministry of State, Subdivision Foreign Office, dated, Munich 12/29/1917, which honored him with the German title of Commerzienrat which freely translated in English is the equivalent of what Americans would call a "merchant prince".

Mr. Spitz resided fifty years in Munich. He was the founder and owner of a sports good and clothing factory employing more than 500 people. For fifteen years prior to the Hitler regime in Germany, Mr. Spitz was President of a democratic organization. Because of these political activities he was compelled to leave Germany in 1937. He is at present residing at 475 Central Park West, New York, N.Y.; his home telephone is AC 4-3325.

"Mr. Spitz has extraordinarily important information regarding Fritz Kuhn, leader of the German-American Bund.

Mr. Spitz informs us that Fritz Kuhn has a criminal record in Germany, a fact which, he states, is entirely unknown to the authorities in this country. Mr. Spitz has stated positively he would be willing to testify under oath as to the veracity of this statement. Mr. Spitz has known Fritz Kuhn since 1900. Spitz's business establishment and that of Kuhn's father were adjacent to each other on the same street in Munich . While he was a student of chemistry at the University of Munich in 1921, Fritz Kuhn was accused of stealing coats from the students on the campus of the university. He was arrested, convicted and sentenced to four months in prison. Upon the expiration of the prison term Fritz Kuhn with his father visited the office of Mr. Spitz. In this connection Mr. Spitz mentioned the name of a Mr. Elkan, a Certified Public Accountant, who is now dead. Mr. Elkan was a close friend of the Kuhn family and a cousin of Mr. Spitz.

This is mentioned only that in the event Fritz Kuhn will be questioned on this matter, he would probably remember the name of Mr. Elkan.

At the time of the expiration of his prison term, Kuhn was about 24 years old. On the occasion when Kuhn with his father visited Mr. Spitz, they implored him to give Fritz a job in his establishment so that his career in life might not be entirely wrecked. Mr. Spitz feeling sympathy for the young Kuhn employed him as a shipping clerk. After four months of work, Mr. Spitz discovered that Fritz Kuhn had stolen goods amounting to more than three thousand German marks. When the theft was discovered, Fritz Kuhn's father and Mr. Elkan visited Mr. Spitz and begged him not to bring the theft to the attention of the authorities. These three men discussed the situation

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"and all contributed to a fund which enabled Fritz Kuhn to flee from the disgrace of a second prosecution for theft and to emigrate to Mexico. Mr. Spitz himself contributed 100 marks to this fund.

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Mr. Spitz informs me he can give the names of many individuals still living in Munich who can corroborate his statements. He further said his own integrity will be vouched for by his old friend [redacted]

The only other person cognizant of these facts, Mr. Spitz assured me, is [redacted] phone [redacted] Mr. Spitz gave substantially the same information he has given us to [redacted] when he read in the paper that [redacted] Fritz Kuhn; Mr. Spitz was in Court and ready to testify to the above statements, but was not called to the witness stand as the libel case against Kuhn was thrown out of Court for lack of evidence. At that time, [redacted] Mr. Spitz to the District Attorney to whom he repeated his information. In the preliminary examination, the attorney prosecuting questioned Fritz Kuhn as to whether he had been prosecuted or had a criminal record in Germany. Kuhn answered "no" which is a matter of Court record in the Brooklyn Magistrate's Court where the arraignment was held.

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It is my impression that there are grounds to seek the deportation of Fritz Kuhn for two reasons:

1. that perjured himself upon his entry into this country from Mexico , and
2. that he perjured himself a second time in applying for and receiving Citizenship papers as a naturalized American citizen.

I leave this information in your hands for your further consideration.

P.S.: For your information, Mr. Spitz is, as you can see, an old gentleman of sixty-six years, of the highest type of pre-war German; he is a scholarly old man, the author of a book on World Anti-Semitism and there is no doubt in my mind as to his utter sincerity and trustworthiness. He tells me he will be available for us at any time we may wish to get in touch with him."

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It will be noted that SPITZ indicated he had discussed this matter with [redacted] called at this office on April 14, 1939 and exhibited a copy of the declaration of intention of REINHOLD SPITZ, #410027 also bearing #54067. This was issued in the Southern District of New York, sworn to on February 11, 1938 and refers to Certificate 2-560413 from the Commissioner of Immigration. The information set out in the declaration gives the following descriptin of HAROLD SPITZ.

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| | |
|---|---|
| Name | REINHOLD SPITZ |
| Residence | 1393 Lexington Ave., New York City |
| Occupation | Merchant & manufacturer |
| Born | Linz, Austria, February 13, 1873 |
| Sex | Male |
| Color | White |
| Complexion | Fair |
| Eyes | Blue |
| Hair | Gray |
| Height | 5' 11" |
| Weight | 140 lbs. |
| Race | Jewish |
| Nationality | German |
| Marital status | Married (Sept. 14, 1902 at Meiningen, Germany) |

Information is further set out that SPITZ' wife was born in Meiningen, Germany, February 8, 1883; that they entered the U.S.A. at the Port of New York, December 13, 1936; that they have two children: HELMUT, born August 2, 1914 - and MARGIT, both born at Munich, Germany.

SPITZ stated that his last foreign residence was at Munich. SPITZ apparently furnished to [redacted] an affidavit which, according to [redacted] was sworn to by SPITZ on February 15, 1939 A copy of this affidavit was loaned to this office by [redacted] and is quoted as follows:

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CITY AND STATE OF NEW YORK)
COUNTY OF KINGS )SS:

REINHOLD SPITZ, being duly sworn, deposes and says:-

I reside at 475 Central Park West, City of New York, Borough of Manhattan. That I was born in the City of Linz, Austria, on February 13, 1873. That I am married, and my wife's name is Frieda. We were married on September 14, 1902 in Meiningen, Germany. My wife Frieda Spitz was born in Meiningen, Germany on February 8, 1883.

b7C

I came to the United States through the Port of New York, on December 13, 1936 for the purpose of establishing a permanent residence in the United States. When I came to this Country I resided at 1393 Lexington Avenue, New York City. I have two children, a son named [redacted] who was born on [redacted] and a daughter named [redacted] who is about [redacted] years of age. My son [redacted] lives in this Country with me, and [redacted] resides in Essen, Germany. I have announced and declared my intention in writing to become a Citizen of the United States, and have received a certificate of such intention from the United States District Court Southern District of New York; Certificate No. 410027, dated February 11, 1938; certification No. 2-560413; certificate also bears the No. of 54067. I have lived in this City and Country since I came to America, as above set forth.

I am acquainted with Fritz Kuhn, who is sometimes known in this County as DER FUEHRER of the German American Bund, and the Editor of the Deutscher Weckruf und Beobachter, a weekly newspaper, published by the A.V. Publishing Co. Corp., Inc. at 178 E. 85th St., Room 5, New York City, Borough of Manhattan. I know Fritz Kuhn since he was a boy. I know his father and his brothers and his mother.

I left Linz, Austria in 1896 and went to live with my family in Munich, Germany. I lived at various times at various residences in Munich, Germany, and at other times I moved out of Munich proper and took my residence in a suburb of Munich. I lived in Munich from the time I came there in 1896 until the time I came into this Country as herein above set forth. I conducted a business in Munich, which was a clothing

"business, manufacturing and retail, at Dachauer, Strass 1, and also four retail clothing stores, Prielmeyer Strasse 1, Garmisch am Market Platz, Oberstdorf.

During the time that I was in business in Munich as aforesaid, Fritz Kuhn had attended the University at Munich. I believe that Fritz Kuhn was about 24 or 25 years of age when he attended that University.

I do hereby swear that the said Fritz Kuhn, while he was attending, as a student at the said University at Munich when he was about 24 or 25 years of age, did steal certain clothing, goods, wares and merchandise from other students in the said University and from the University, and was arrested on the charge of Larceny therefor in the City of Munich and was duly tried and convicted by the Court to serve four months in prison for the said crime of larceny, which term of four months he duly served in prison in the City of Munich.

After Fritz Kuhn came out of prison, after serving his sentence as aforesaid, his father and a man by the name of Joseph Elkan, who is now deceased, and who was my cousin, came to my place of business at my factory in Munich at Augusten Strasze 40, and pleaded with me that I should take Fritz Kuhn into my employ as an all-around handy man around the factory. Fritz Kuhn was present with his father and the said deceased cousin of mine, Mr. Elkan, and Fritz Kuhn then and there told me that he had committed the crime of larceny while a student at the University at Munich, and that he had been tried for larceny at the Munich Criminal Court, and that he was sentenced to four months in prison for that crime and had served his sentence, and that he wanted to go straight, and he begged me for a chance for employment, in which plea he was joined by his father and my said deceased cousin. I acceded to his request and I did employ Fritz Kuhn, hoping that I would be able to reclaim him and make a decent man out of him, so that he should not be tempted to commit any crimes. He had worked for me for about eight weeks, after I employed him when he stole from my factory, merchandise of a value of over 3,000 marks.

OFFICE OF
K. R. McIntire
Room 5244

_____ 1939

✓ [redacted]

Files Section [redacted]

[redacted]

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____Call Me
____See Me
____Bring File (s).
____Make 5 x 8 Cards
____File Copies In R.M.
____Serialize and Return
____Check For Reference
____On Writer
____Letter, Report
____Ref. Is Attached
____Note Address (es)
____Note

____Add To Book Index
____Correct
____Redate
____File
____Clip and Mount
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____Copy To [redacted]
____Copy To Div. of Records
____Note Publ. On Page____
____Note Subscription
____Note Article on Page____

Do you want to answer this letter from N.Y.?

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**

**United States Department of Justice**

74-130
GJS:LP New York, New York

May 8, 1939

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

RE: FRITZ KUHN ; PERJURY;
IMMIGRATION ACT;
NATURALIZATION ACT.

Dear Sir:

b7C

Reference is made to report of Special Agent [redacted] dated 5/8/38 at New York City in the above entitled matter.

It is noted that no copies are designated for the U. S. Attorney although the U. S. Attorney, Southern District of New York originally reported this matter to this office.

Additional copies have been prepared for the New York files and it will be appreciated if the Bureau will advise if a copy of this report should be forwarded to the U. S. Attorney's office in view of the nature of this inquiry.

Any prosecution would seem to hinge on whether official corroboration can be obtained of Kuhn's criminal record at Munich, Germany. The Bureau is respectfully requested to inform this office whether an inquiry along that line will be made through the Department of State.

Very truly yours,

Dwight Brantley

DWIGHT BRANTLEY,
Special Agent in Charge.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAY 9 1939
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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KRM:CJ
61-7594

July 10, 1939

61-7594-25

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL ROGGE

RECORDED

b7C

RE: FRITZ KUHN; PERJURY;
IMMIGRATION ACT;
NATURALIZATION ACT

In connection with the above matter, I am transmitting herewith one copy of the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at New York City, May 8, 1939, also a copy of the report of the same Agent dated at New York City, June 9, 1939, one copy of a letter of the Boston office to the New York office, dated June 5, 1939, and one copy of the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at Newark, New Jersey, June 1, 1939.

Your attention is directed to that portion of the letter of the Boston office to the New York office, dated June 5, 1939, wherein [redacted] has expressed a willingness to correspond with acquaintances in Munich, Germany, to ascertain the details relative to the arrest of Fritz Kuhn.

If it is your desire that such correspondence ensue please advise me.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nathan
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Egan
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Crowl
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Lester
Mr. Lawler
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sears
Mr. Joint Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUL 11 1939
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE